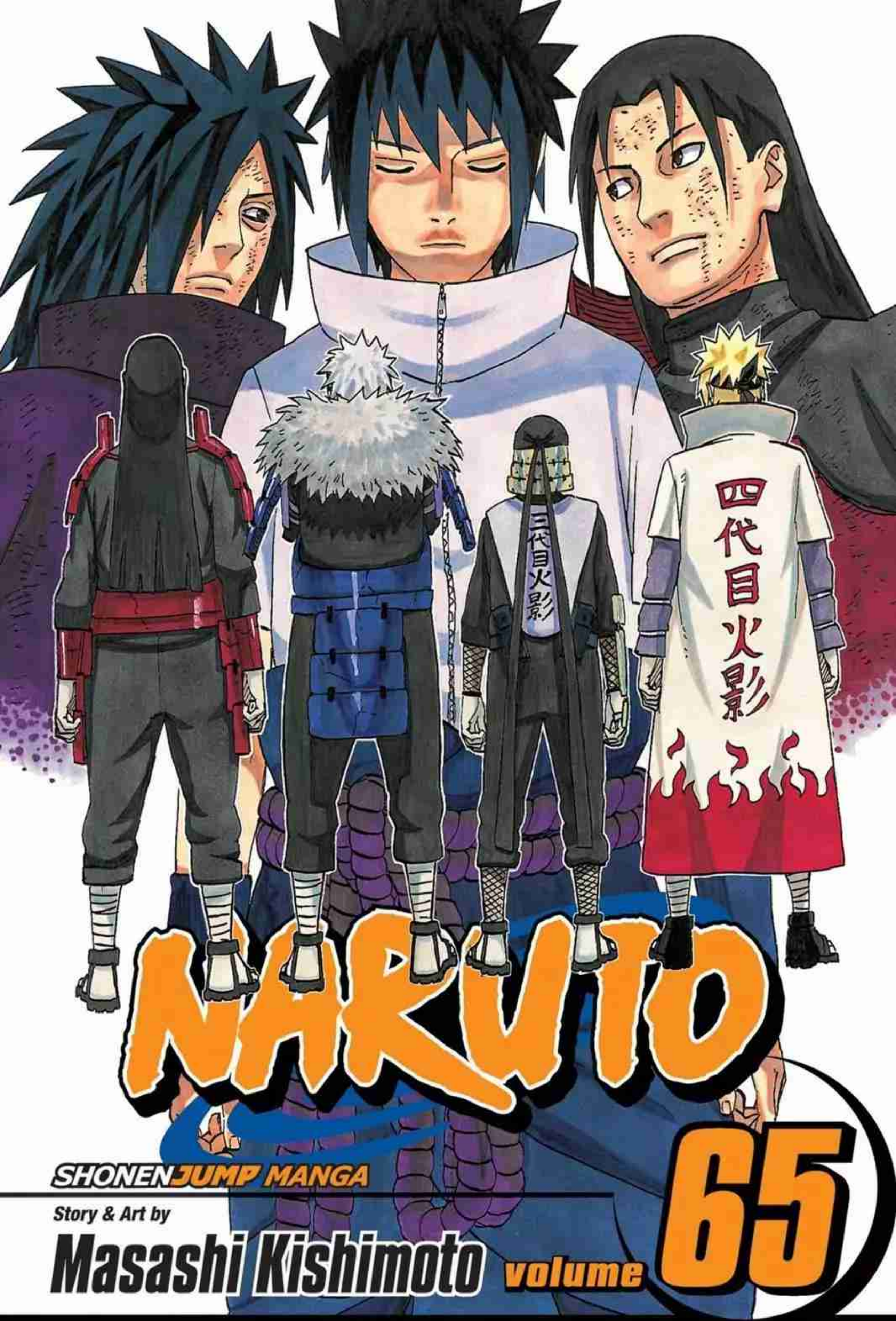
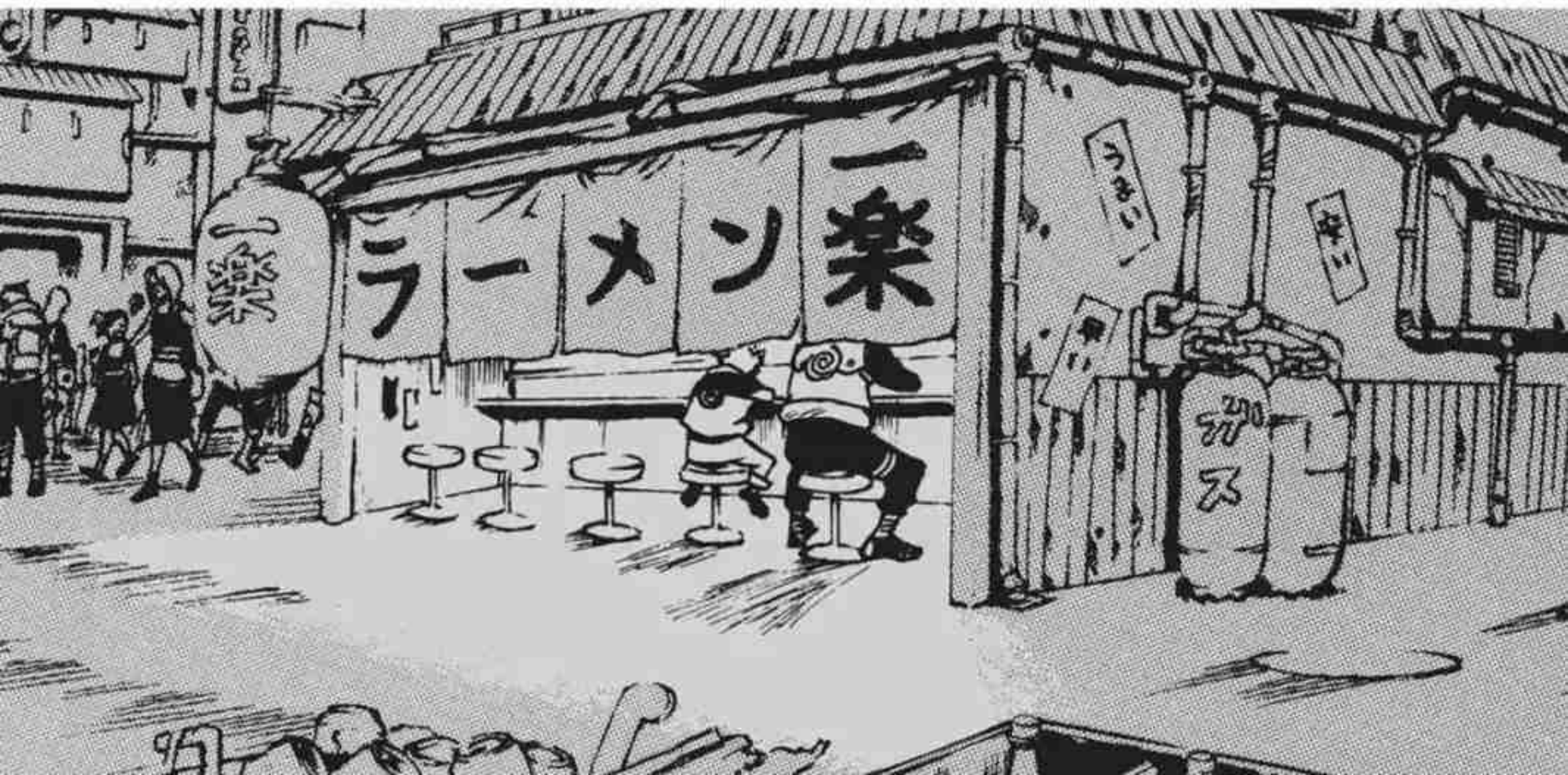

四代目火影
三代目火影
NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 65

岸本斉史

I've recently starting going out to eat with my assistants after work. Once we get our drinks I always end up leading the toast... but my assistants' eyes seem to be stating that simply saying "thanks for your hard work today" is somewhat insufficient... Ah, but there ain't much variation that can be had there!!!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2013

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.



NARUTO VOL. 65
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

Translation/Mari Morimoto
Touch-up Art & Lettering/John Hunt
Design/Sam Elzway
Editor/Alexis Kirsch

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

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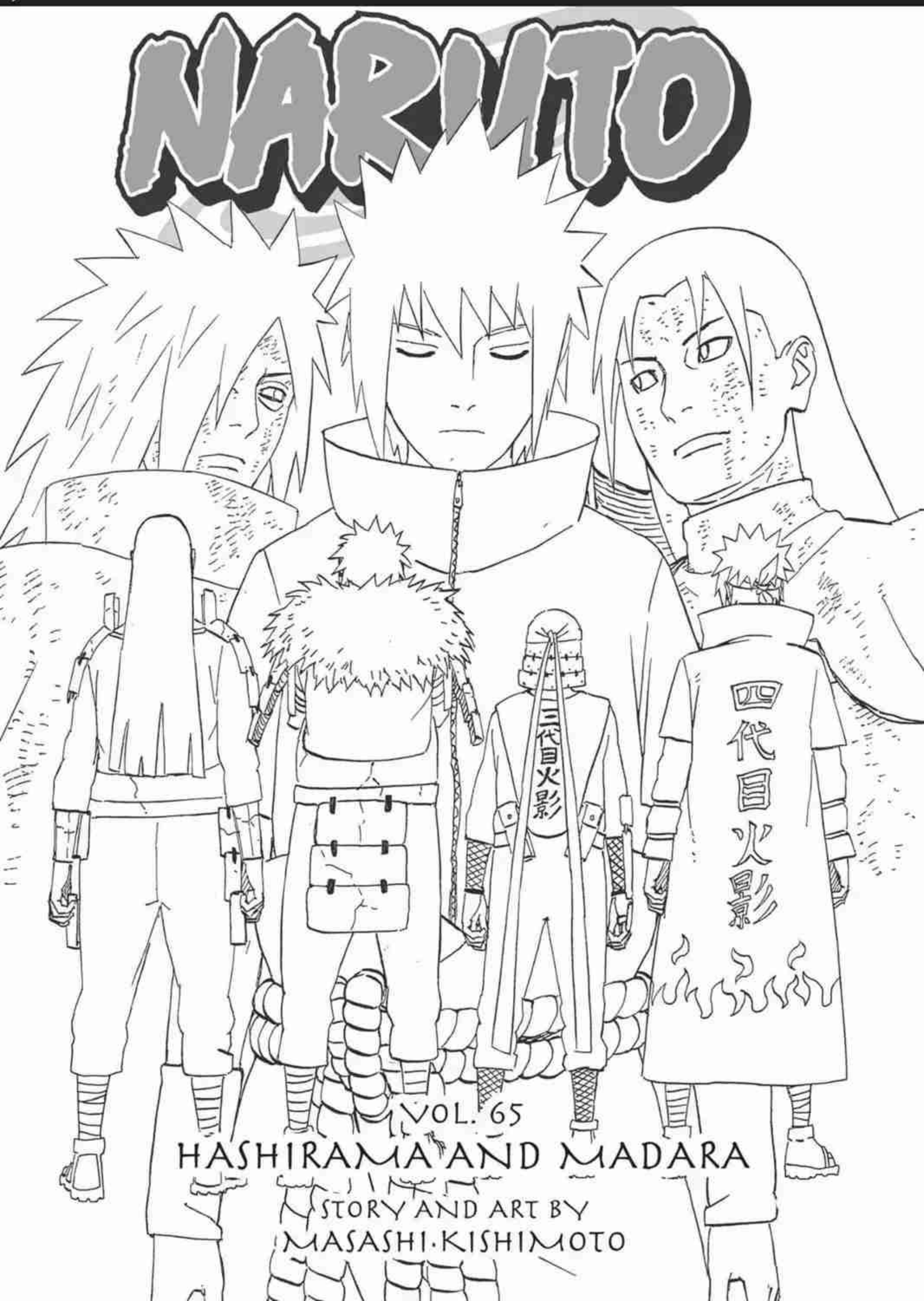
SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

NARUTO



VOL. 65

HASHIRAMA AND MADARA

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS

Naruto うずまきナルト

Sasuke うちはサスケ

Kakashi はたけカカシ

Sakura 春野サクラ

Sai サイ

Yamato ヤマト

Kurama 九喇嘛

Obito うちはオビト

THE STORY SO FAR...

Naruto, the biggest troublemaker at the Ninja Academy in the Village of Konohagakure, finally becomes a ninja along with his classmates Sasuke and Sakura. They grow and mature through countless trials and battles. However, Sasuke, unable to give up his quest for vengeance, leaves Konohagakure to seek Orochimaru and his power…

Two years pass. Naruto grows up and engages in fierce battles against the Tailed Beast-targeting Akatsuki. Elsewhere, after winning the heroic battle against Itachi and learning his older brother's true intentions, Sasuke allies with the Akatsuki and sets out to destroy Konoha.

The Fourth Great Ninja War against the Akatsuki begins. Having stopped the Edotensei jutsu with the help of his brother, Sasuke now heads off with Orochimaru to fullfil a new objective. Meanwhile, Naruto and his allies try to stop Obito and Madara from reviving Ten Tails. And what will Sasuke's next move be?!

NARUTO

VOL. 65
HASHIRAMA AND MADARA

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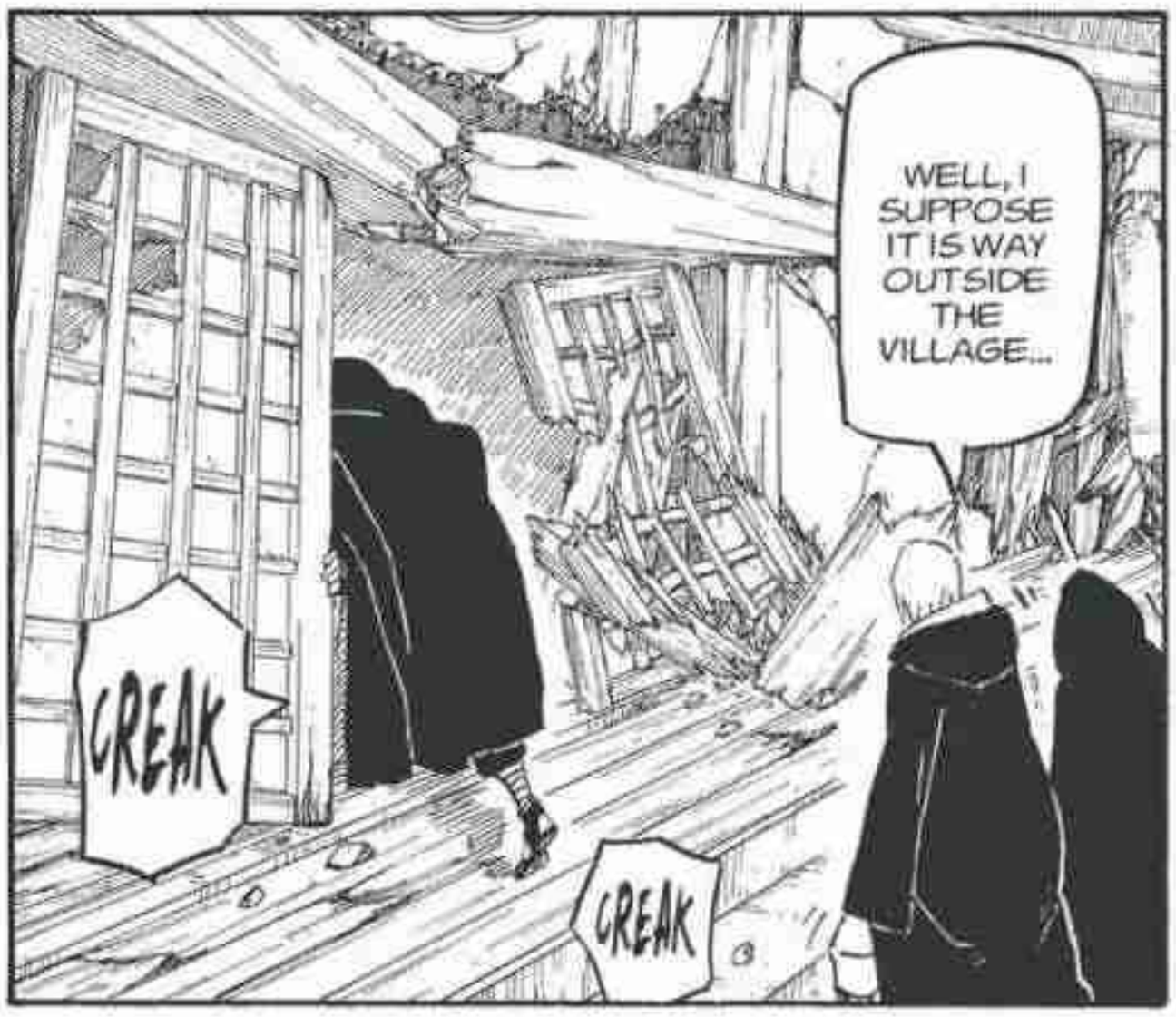
IT'S IN SHAMBLES...

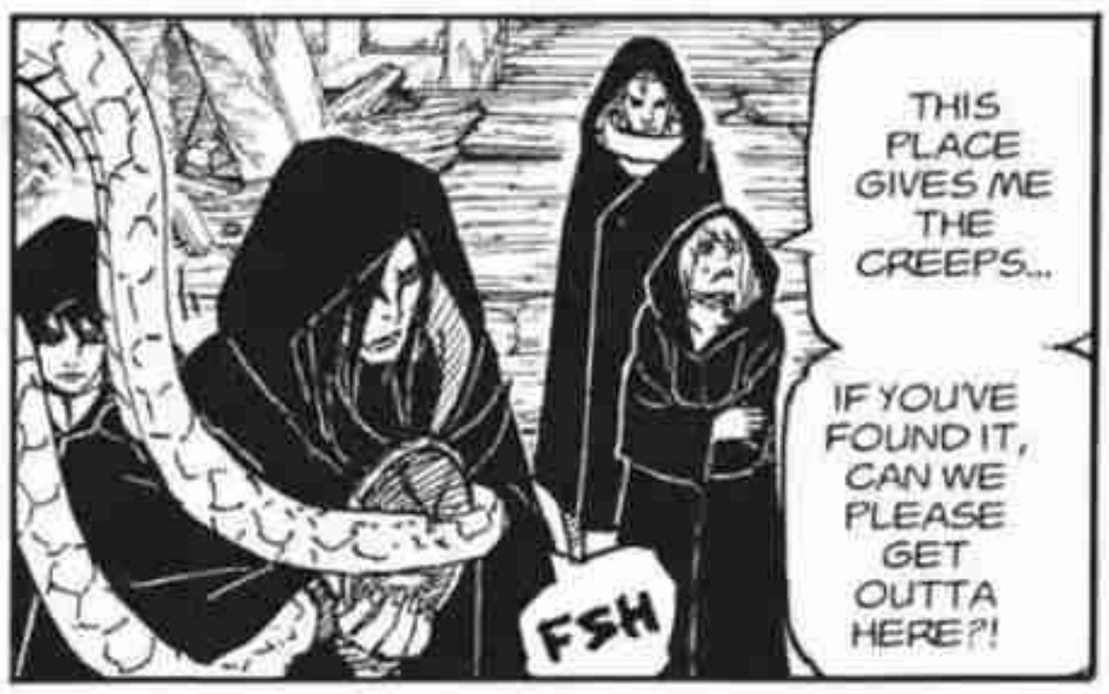
THIS PLACE SEEMS TO BE UNTOUCHED.

Number 618: The All-Knowing



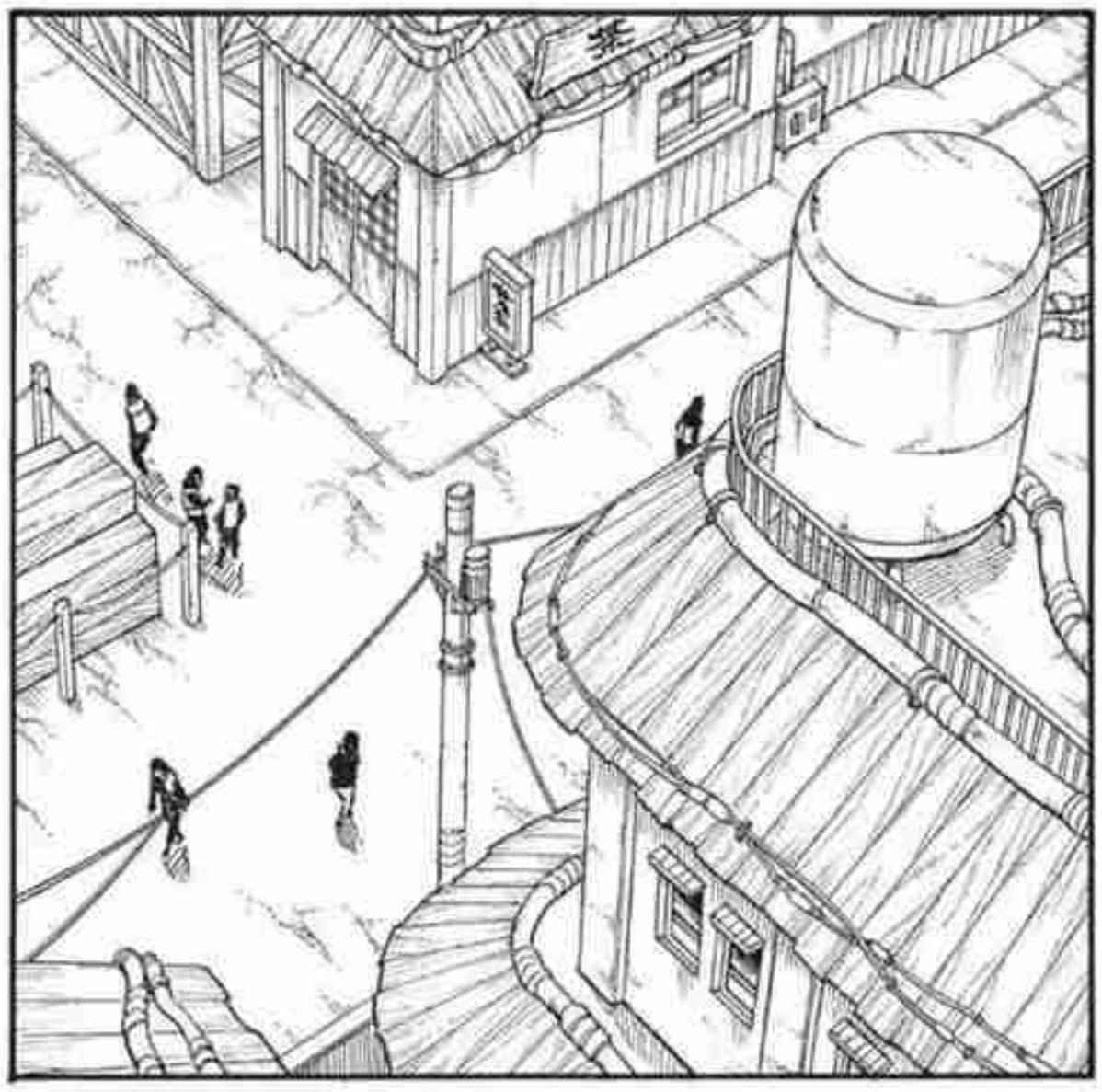
...

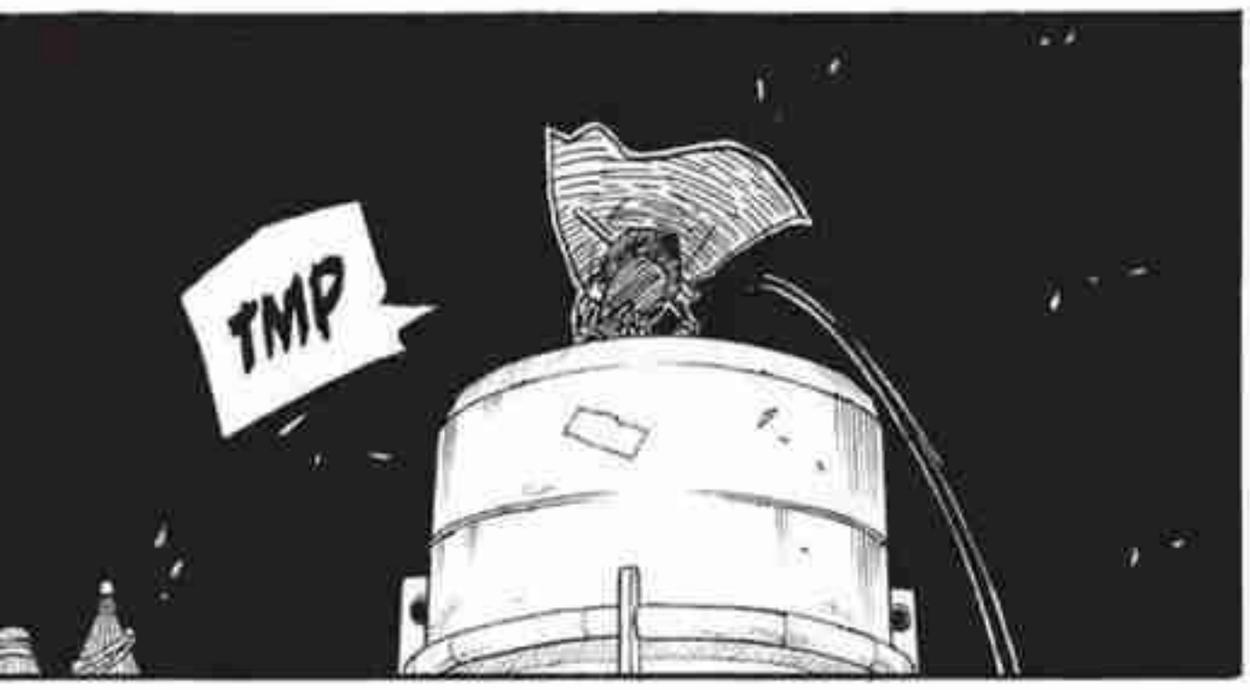
ZWOOO


THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS...
IF YOU'VE FOUND IT, CAN WE PLEASE GET OUTTA HERE?!
FSH

TO WHERE ALL THE SECRETS SLEEP.
YES, LET'S...

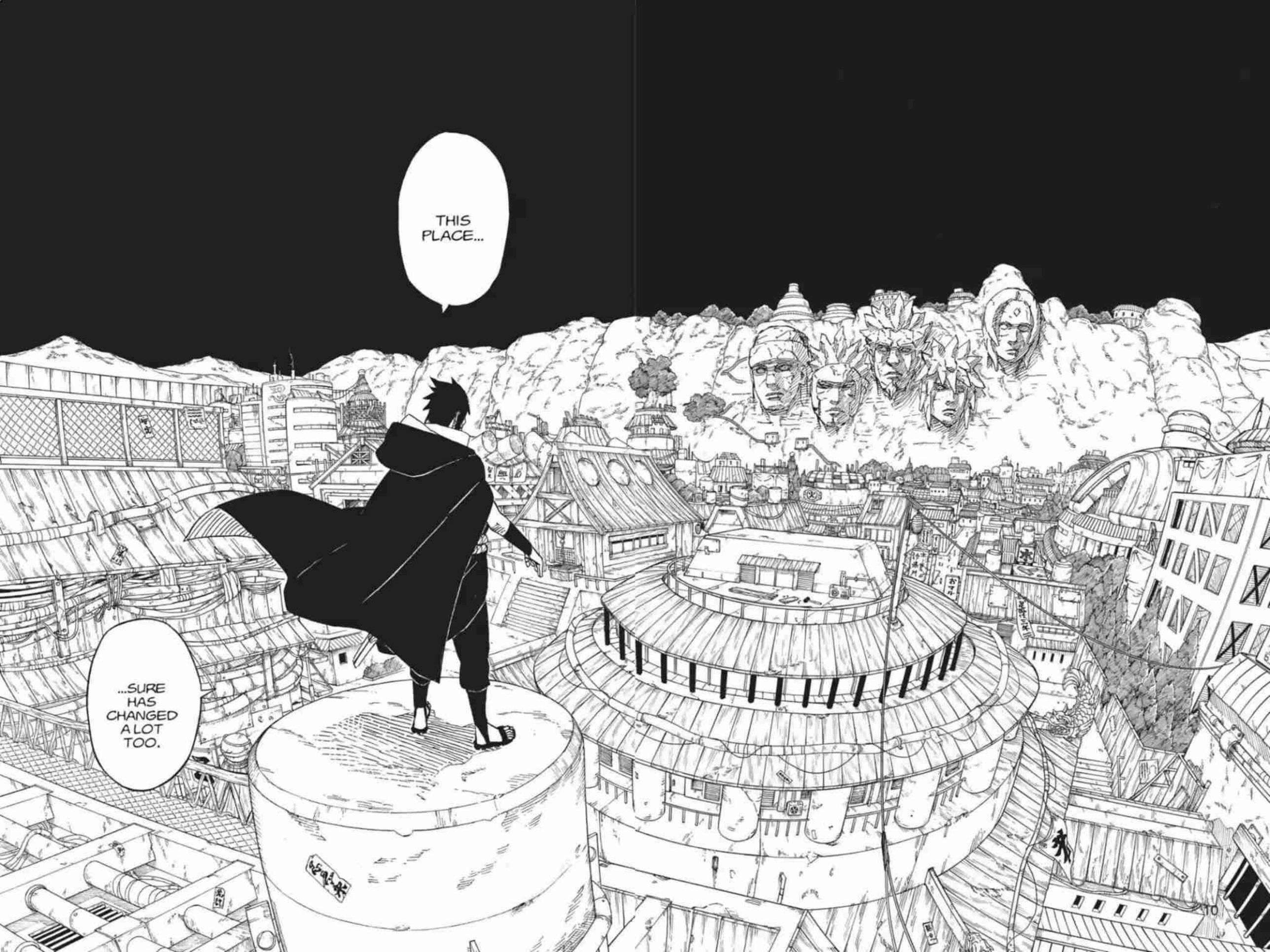
THERE WE GO.
SLITHER...




TMP

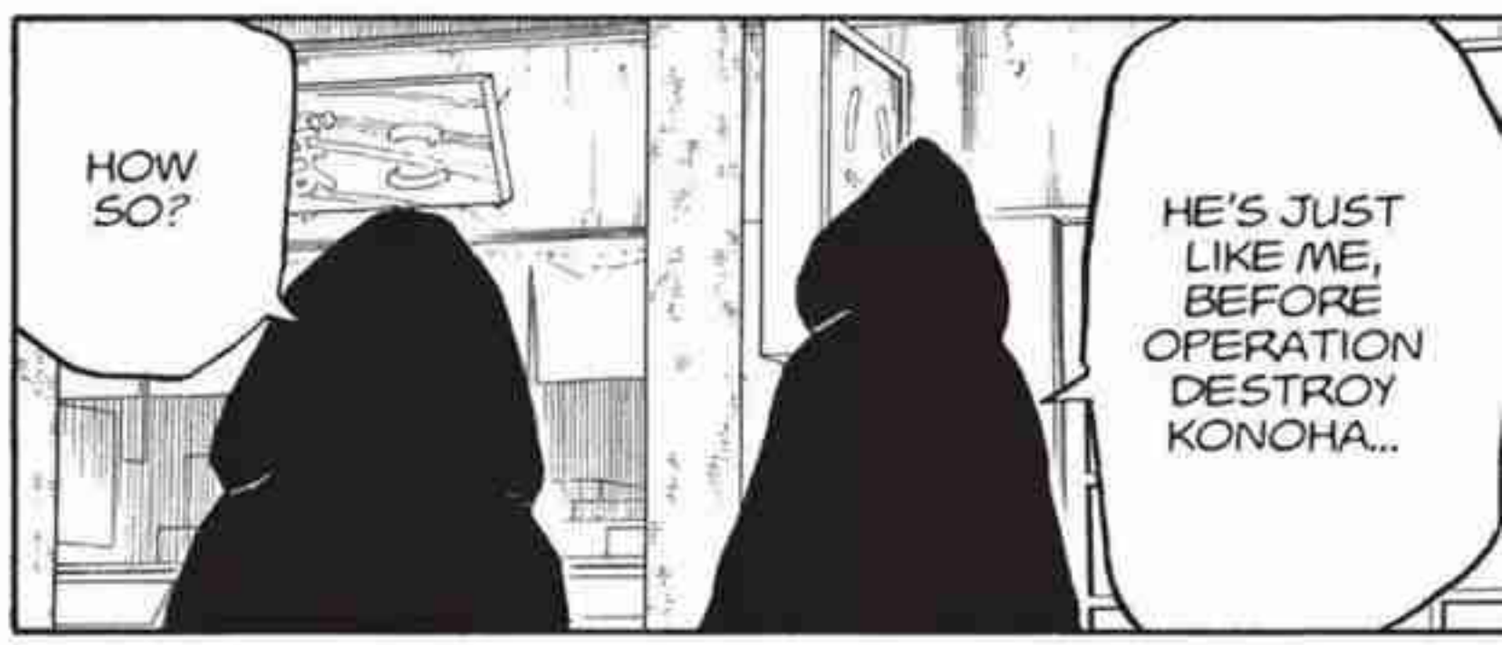
TAK
HUH?!
...

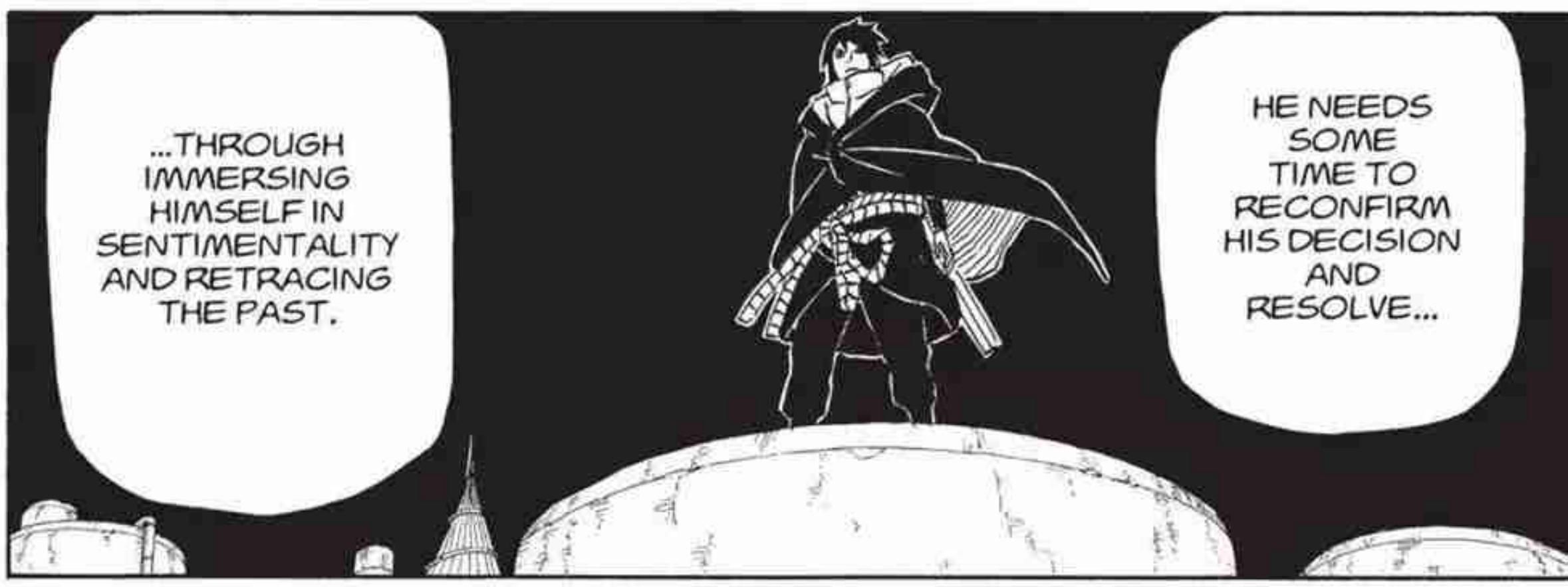
FSH


THIS PLACE...
...SURE HAS CHANGED A LOT TOO.

...THIS PLACE IS STILL HIS HOMELAND, WHERE HE WAS BORN.
EVEN IF BOTH HE AND THE VILLAGE HAVE CHANGED...

...
WHAT'S UP WITH SASUKE?


HOW SO?
HE'S JUST LIKE ME, BEFORE OPERATION DESTROY KONOHA...


...THROUGH IMMERSING HIMSELF IN SENTIMENTALITY AND RETRACING THE PAST.
HE NEEDS SOME TIME TO RECONFIRM HIS DECISION AND RESOLVE...

?
SO YOU'RE OVER IT ALREADY?
HUH, I SEE...

...

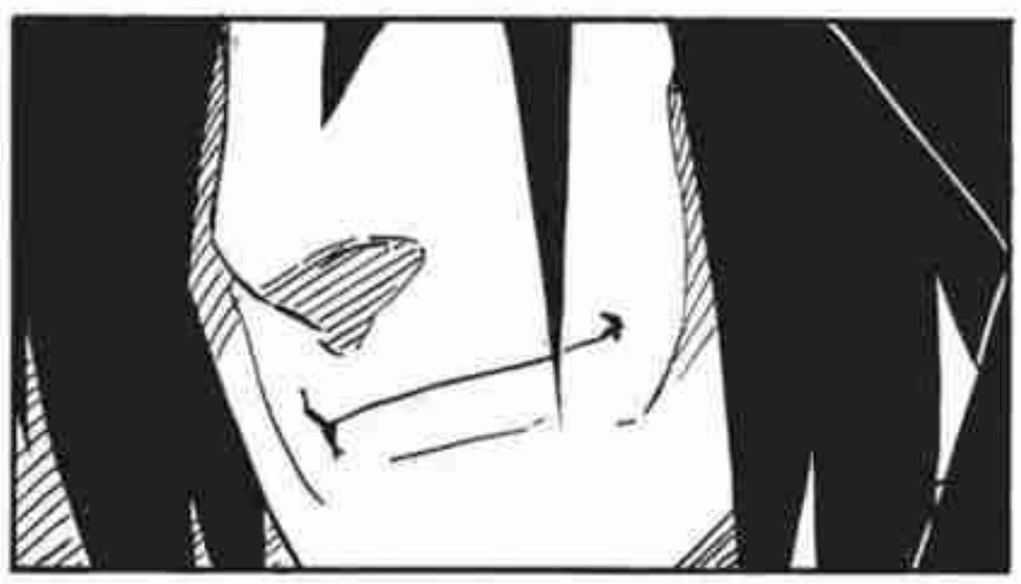
AND RIGHT NOW... WE'RE HERE INSIDE KONOHA...

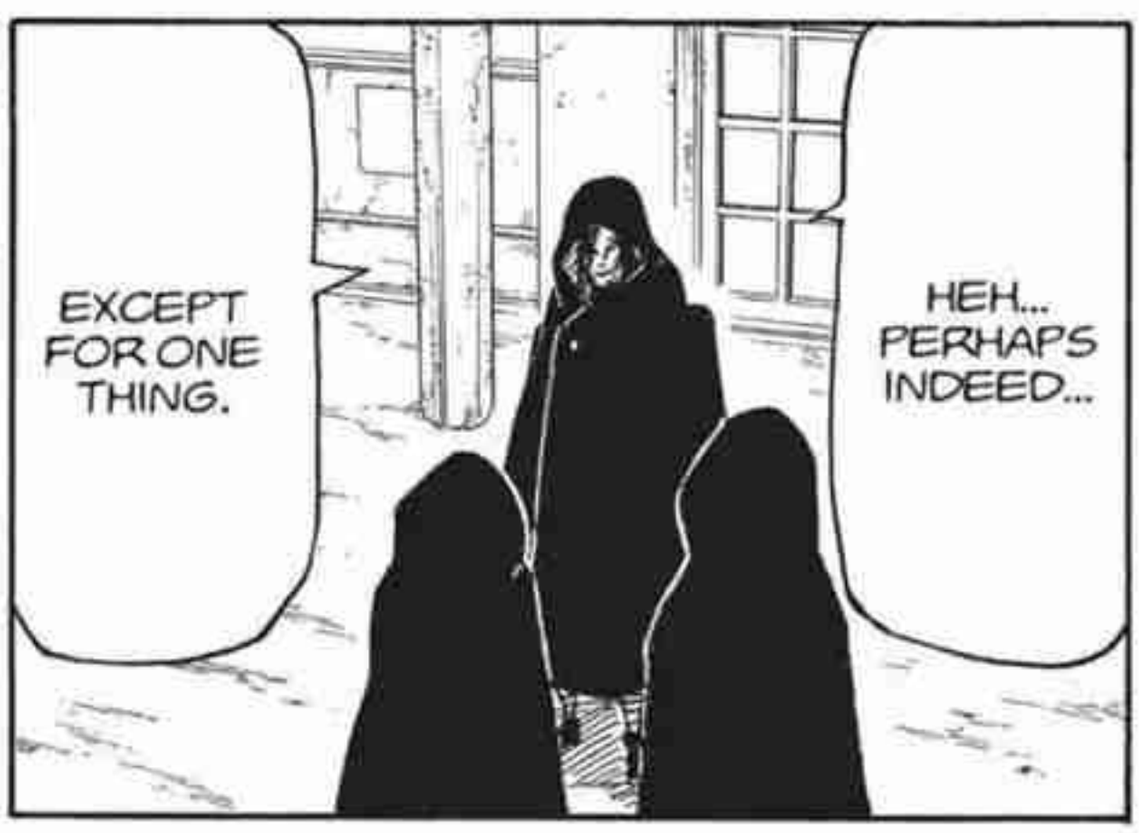
HEY, COME TO THINK OF IT, WE ALL WERE YOUR CREAM-OF-THE-CROP TOP SUBORDINATES, RIGHT?

ISN'T THIS LIKE THE ABSOLUTELY PERFECT CHANCE FOR YOU?

WITH ALL THE VILLAGE'S STRONG FOLK AWAY FIGHTING THE WAR.

THE WHOLE IMMERSE IN SENTIMENTALITY TO RECONFIRM YOUR RESOLVE TO DESTROY KONOHA THING?

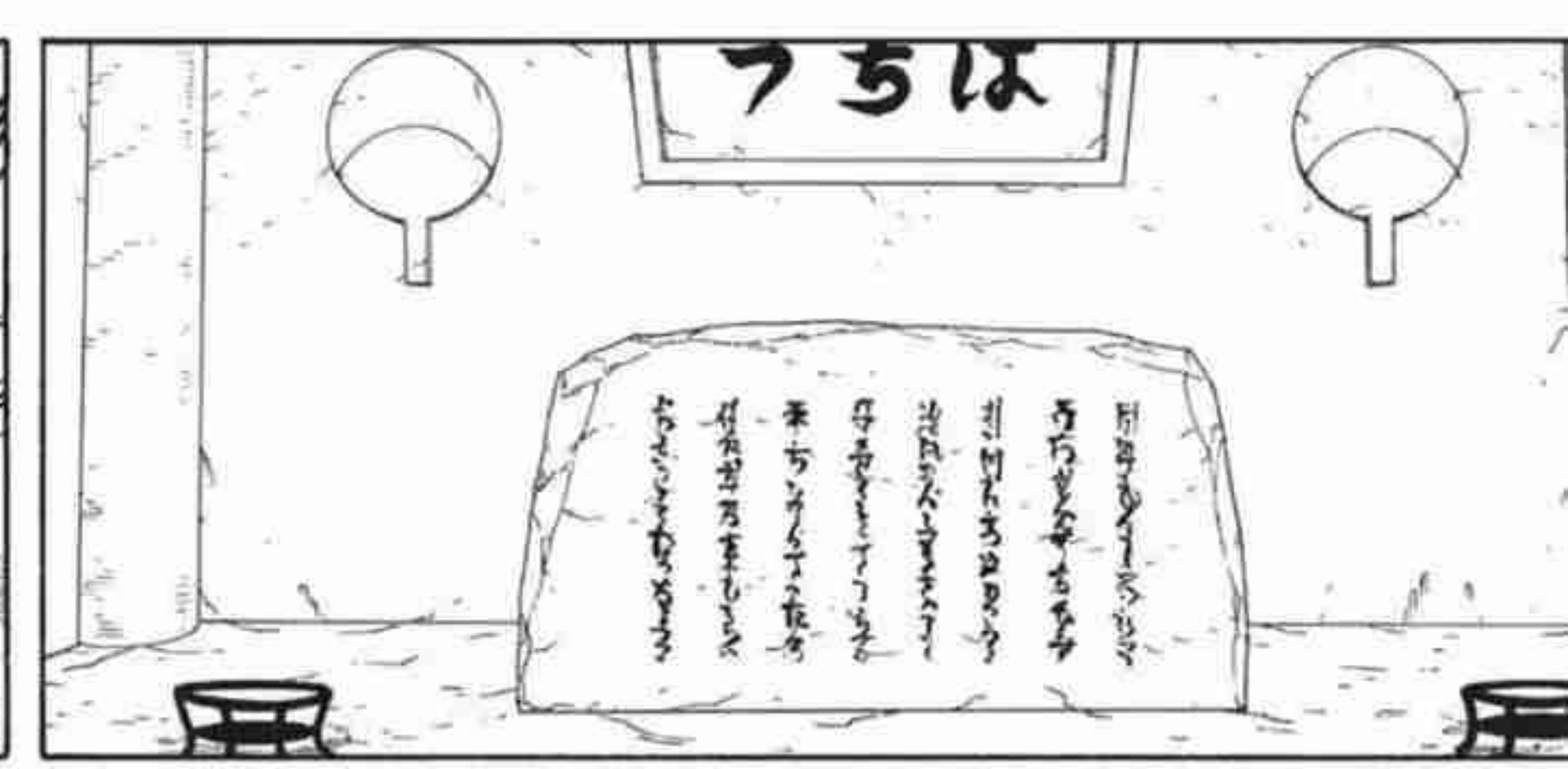




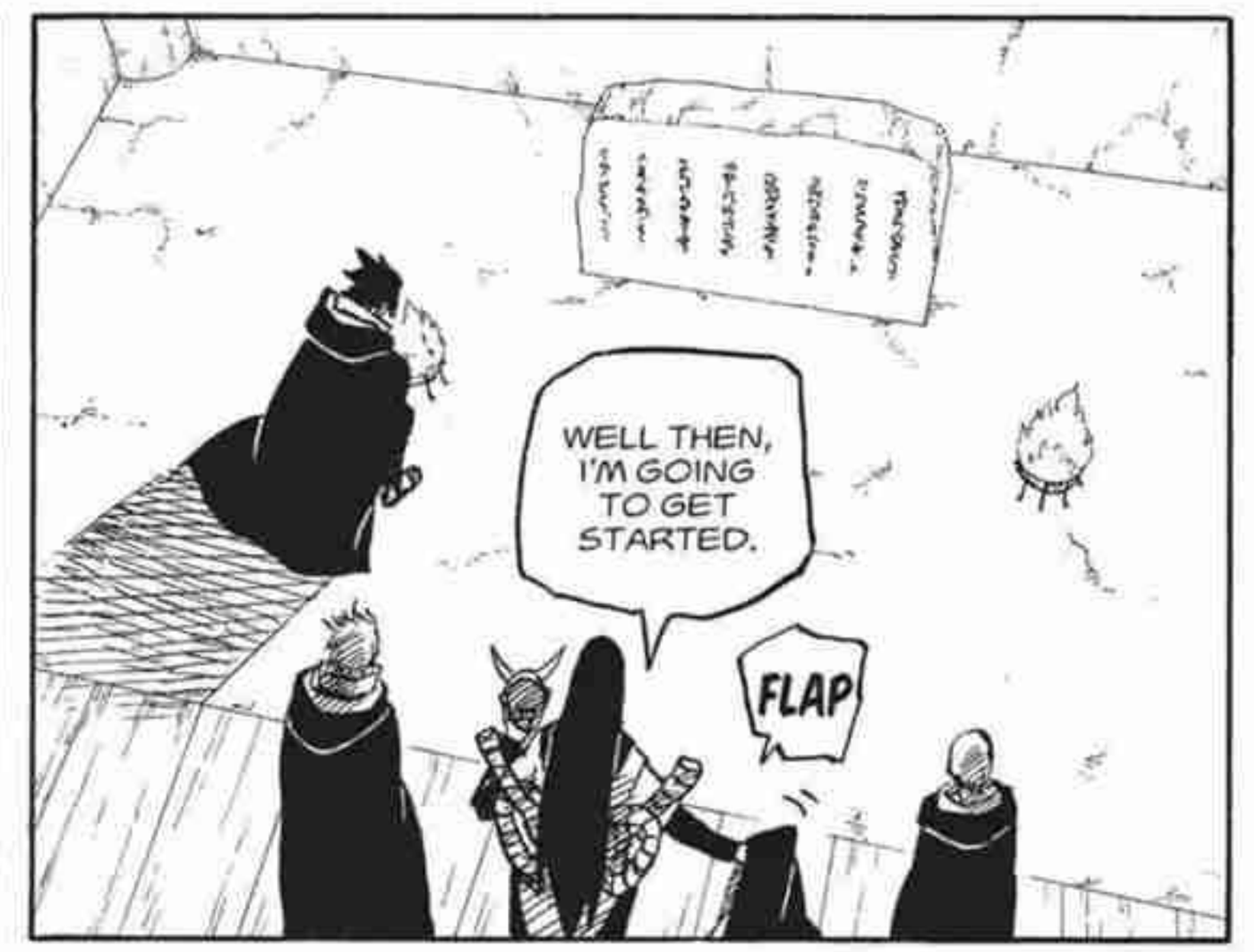
GT...

WOW... SO YOU USE JUTSU TO REMOVE THE ENTRY STONE, EH...

KLATTER



FSH


WELL THEN, I'M GOING TO GET STARTED.
FLAP

PFT
FSH...

IT'S BEST IF YOU STAND BACK...
FSH

AAARGH!!
WOOSH
!!
BOOF

UNH...!!

*TEXT: REAPER DEATH SEAL RELEASE

HOWEVER, IT WILL ALSO ALLOW ME TO GET BACK BOTH MY ARMS FROM INSIDE THE DEATH GOD'S BELLY.

JA B

SLASH

THOUGH I SHALL THEN END UP A HUMAN SACRIFICE.

SLICE OPEN THE DEATH GOD'S ABDOMEN, AND THE SEAL WILL COME UNDONE.

FSH

AND IF I CAN REGAIN THE POWER THAT LIES IN THOSE ARMS, I CAN PERFORM THE EDOTENSEI... THAT'S RIGHT...

MINE AGAIN...!

2122...

2122...

SWOO...

HACK!!

SWOP

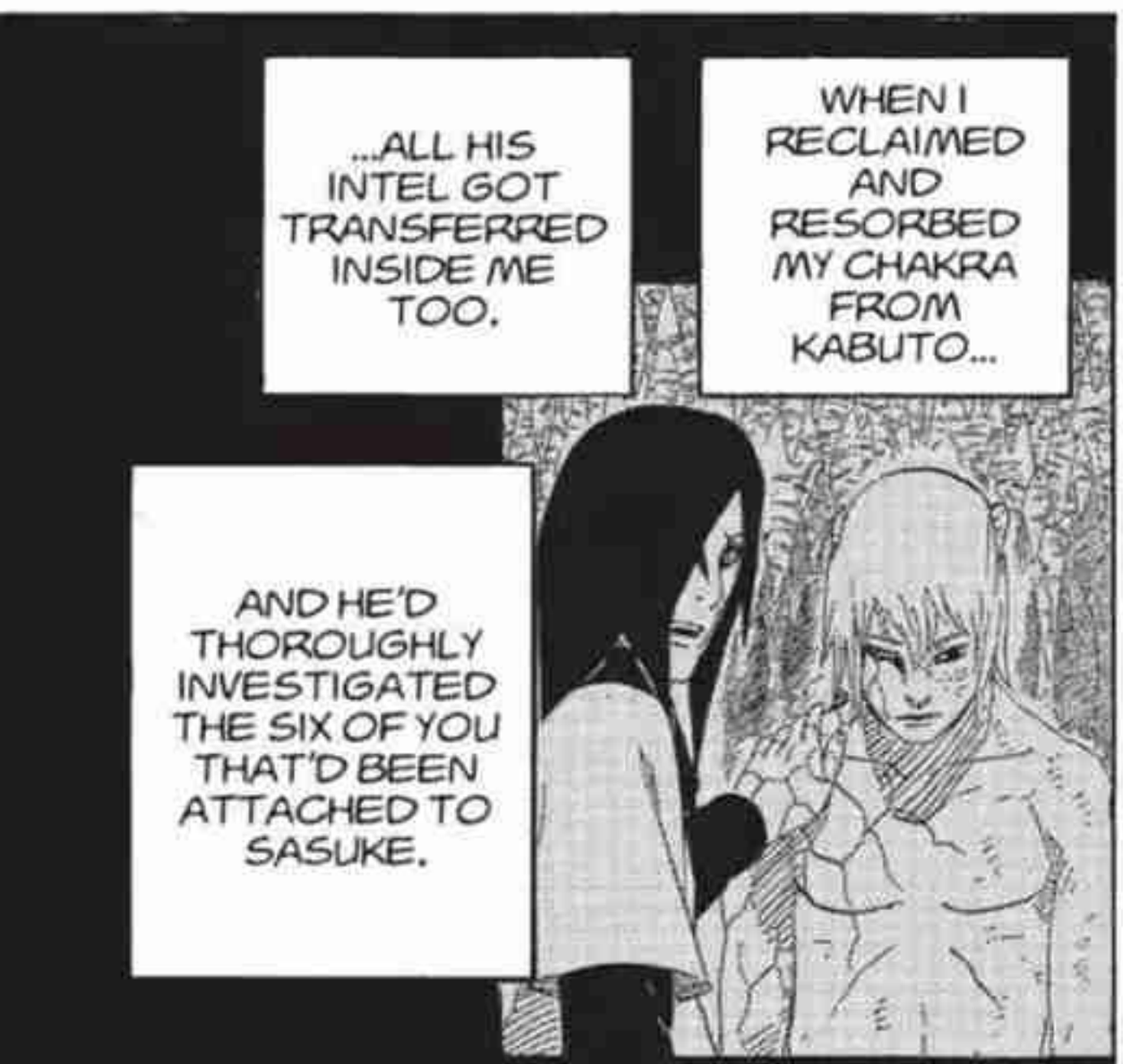
OF COURSE, IN THAT CASE, YOU'RE WELL AWARE OF WHAT WILL THEN BECOME *NECESSARY*...

I CAN REVIVE *THOSE* FOUR...

ZWW

JUGO, BESTOW UPON SASUKE SOME OF YOUR CURSE MARK SAGE POWER...
PSHHH...
ZWW
ZWWW
うちは
ZWW

AND WHEN YOU DO, THE ZETSU THAT TOBI STUCK ONTO SASUKE TO WATCH HIM...
...SHOULD RESPOND AND RISE UP TO THE SURFACE.
ZWW
ZWW
ZWW
ZWW
ZWW


...ALL HIS INTEL GOT TRANSFERRED INSIDE ME TOO.
WHEN I RECLAIMED AND RESORBED MY CHAKRA FROM KABUTO...
AND HE'D THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED THE SIX OF YOU THAT'D BEEN ATTACHED TO SASUKE.

INCLUDING HOW TO DETECT YOU, OF COURSE.
I KNOW YOUR HASHIRAMA CELLS INSIDE OUT FROM MY EXPERIMENTS...
GAH... HOW'D YOU...?!
HUF
HUF
SIX OF YOU, EH... TOBI SURE WASN'T TAKING ANY CHANCES.

SUIGETSU, JUGO, I'M LEAVING THE REMAINING TWO TO YOU...

I POSSESS ***THOSE FOUR'S*** DNA AS WELL... SINCE I LOVE COLLECTING AND ***STORING*** KNOWLEDGE TOO...

WAFT

WAFT

WAFT

WAFT

WAAAAAH!!

ZW ZWW ZWW ZWW ZWW

WOOH...

ZWW

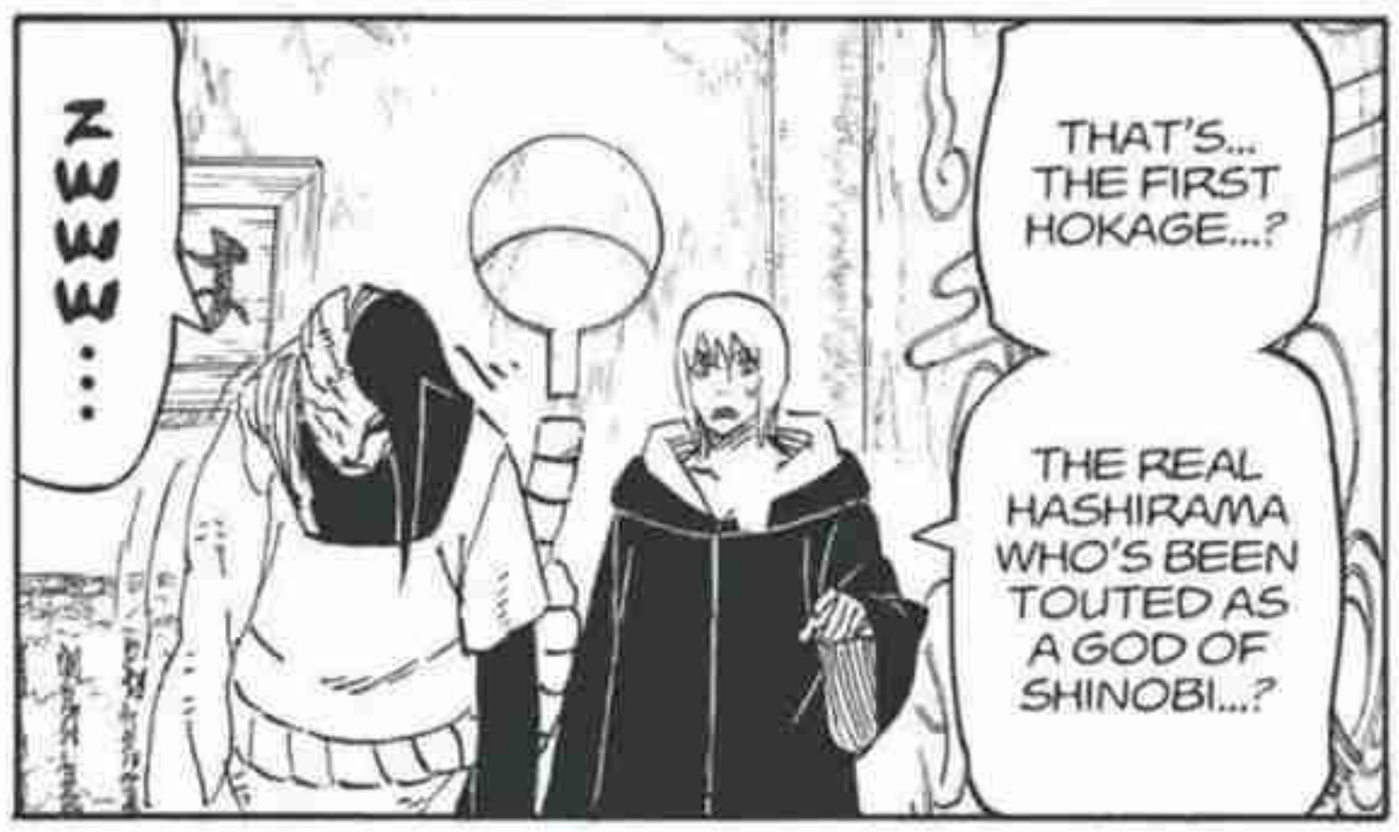
AAARGH!!

NOW, HERE GOES!!

ZLURP

...THE PREVIOUS HOKAGE!

Number 619: A Clan Possessed by Evil



YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE ME, MINATO.

ZWP

HOW, MISTER OROCHI-MARU?

NO WAY... YOU SOLVED HOW TO UNDO THAT SEALING JUTSU...?

IT APPEARS WE'VE BEEN RECALLED INTO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING...

LORD FIRST...

I SIMPLY RESEARCHED THE RUINS AND SCATTERED DOCUMENTS OF THE NOW-EXTINCT CLAN... EVER SINCE I LOST MY JUTSU...

IT WAS ORIGINALLY A SEALING JUTSU OF THE UZUMAKI CLAN...

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

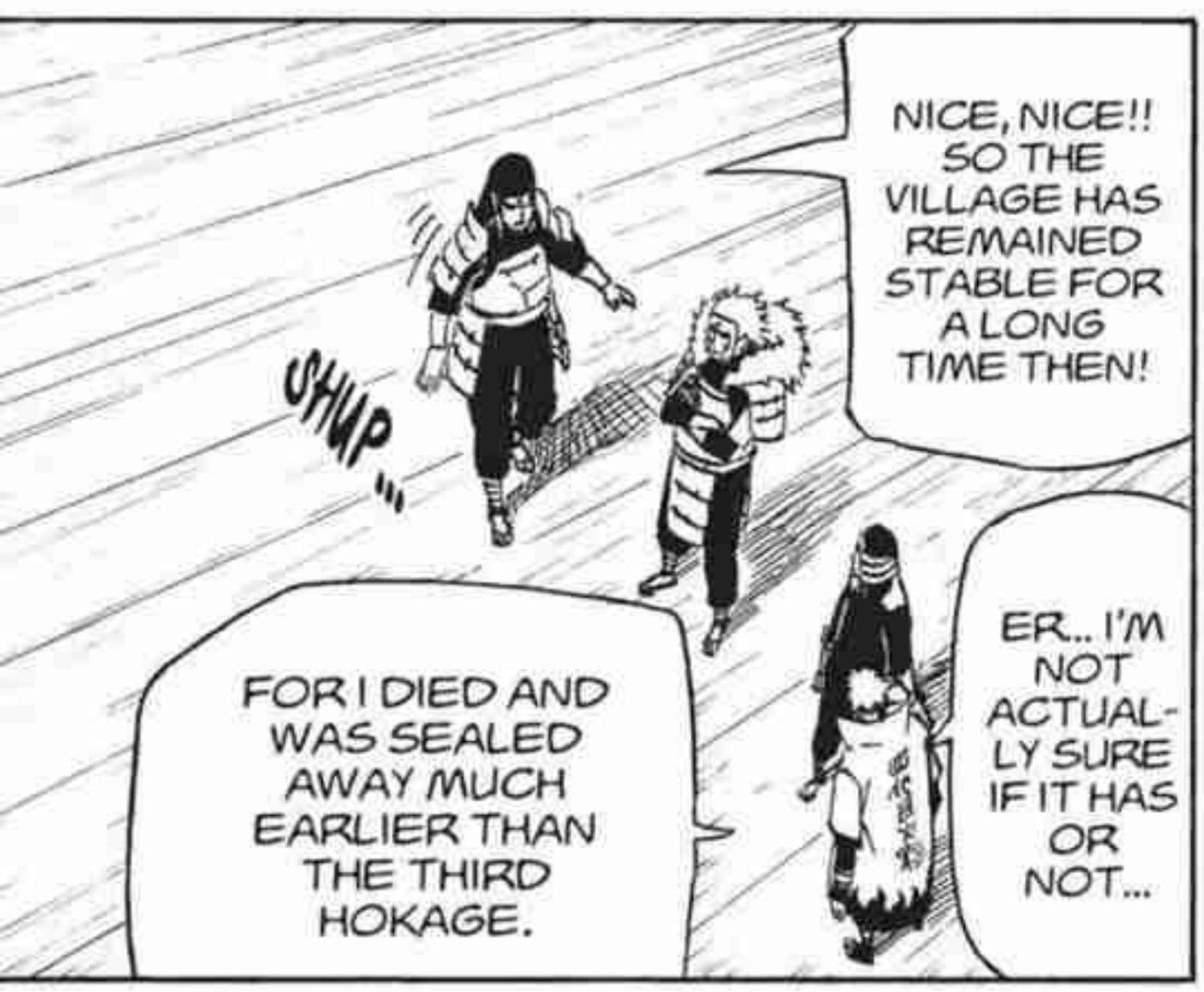
!

HM?!

HO!! FOURTH, EH?!!

SHUP...
THE FOURTH HOKAGE, SIR.
四代目火影

...
SHUP...


NICE, NICE!! SO THE VILLAGE HAS REMAINED STABLE FOR A LONG TIME THEN!
SHUP...
FOR I DIED AND WAS SEALED AWAY MUCH EARLIER THAN THE THIRD HOKAGE.
ER... I'M NOT ACTUALLY SURE IF IT HAS OR NOT...

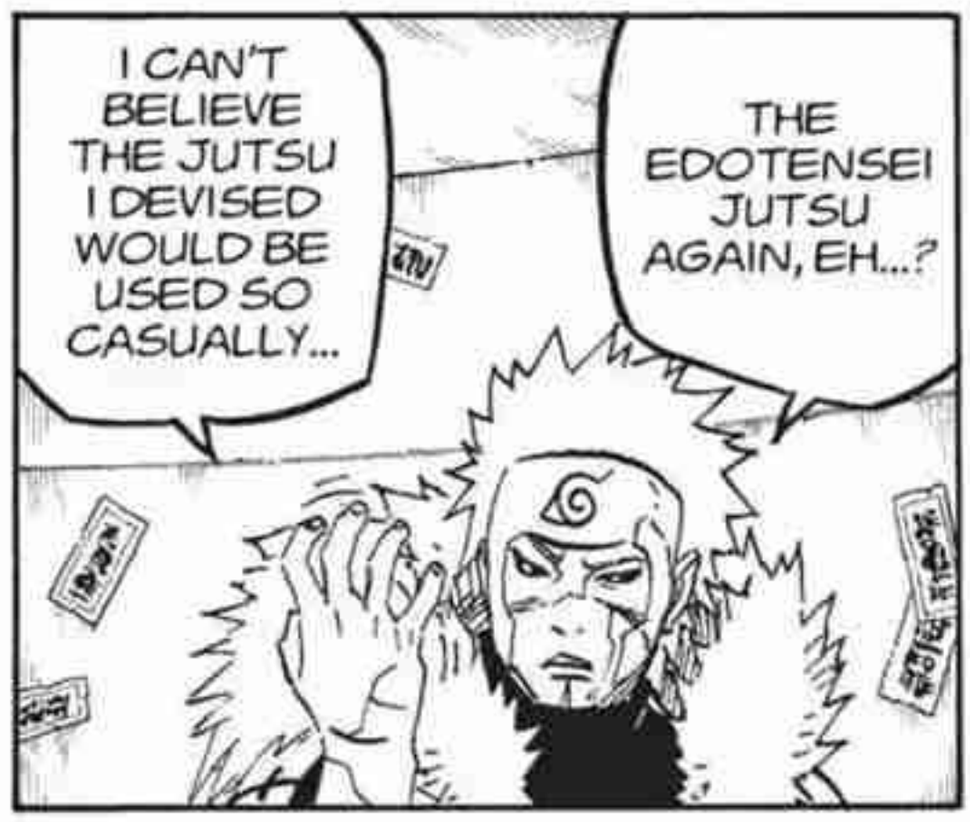
SO THEN WHO'S THE FIFTH HOKAGE?!
YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER, PRINCESS TSUNADE.

YES, SIR... A COMPLETELY SEPARATE INCIDENT...

IN A DIFFERENT INCIDENT THAN WHEN I WAS SEALED AWAY WITH SARUTOBI ?!
HUH?! IS THAT SO?!

IN THE END, SHE EVEN PICKED UP MY GAMBLING BUG... GWA HA HA HA HA!!
WELL, SHE WAS MY FIRST GRAND-CHILD, SO I SPOILED HER ROTTEN!!
HEE! HEE! HEE!

IS...THE VILLAGE OKAY?
TSUNA, EH...
...
GLOOM
I-IS THERE SOMETHING TO BE WORRIED ABOUT...?


I CAN'T BELIEVE THE JUTSU I DEVISED WOULD BE USED SO CASUALLY...
THE EDOTENSEI JUTSU AGAIN, EH...?

GWA-HA HA HA
HOW DO I PUT IT... UM...
HE'S NOT QUITE... WHAT I EXPECTED OF A GOD OF SHINOBI...

?!
HOWEVER... YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE CONCEIVED OF IT...

IT'S REALLY NOT THAT COMPLEX A JUTSU...

AND THIS TIME YOU EVEN REVIVED ME, YOUR FORMER TEACHER, TO PIT ME AGAINST KONOHA?!!

I TOOK AWAY YOUR JUTSU IN EXCHANGE FOR MY OWN LIFE.

YET YOU STILL...?! GAH!!

EVEN CURRENT-LY...

SECOND HOKAGE... MANY OF YOUR POLICIES AND THE JUTSU YOU DEVELOPED ENDED UP CAUSING PROBLEMS LATER DOWN THE LINE.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO ATTACK KONOHA AGAIN?!

I AM TRYING TO SPEAK TO THIS STRIPLING.

HUSH, ELDER BROTHER.

TOBIRAMA... THAT'S WHY I ***TOLD*** YOU THAT TIME TO--

FOR SURE... IT CANNOT BE CALLED THAT GREAT A JUTSU.

SIGH... ALWAYS CONFLICT, NO MATTER WHAT THE ERA, EH.

SHUT UP!

BUT I...

FSH

は
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T SUPPRESS YOUR PERSONALITIES, SEE?
PLEASE DO NOT MISUNDERSTAND... I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE LEANINGS IN THAT DIRECTION.

GOD OF SHINOBI...? SO NOT DIGNIFIED...!!
...
GOOOM

I'M MERELY CREATING A STAGE FOR DISCOURSE PER HIS STRONG DESIRE.
THERE ARE CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES AT PLAY THIS TIME...
SHUP

I WANT TO ASK YOU HOKAGE SOME THINGS.
MY NAME IS UCHIHA SASUKE.

YOU'RE TOO SOFT, ELDER BROTHER.

TOBIRAMA, I *TOLD* YOU TO STOP SAYING SUCH THINGS!!

IS THAT REALLY YOU, SASUKE ?!

...!

OF COURSE YOU'D STICK WITH A SCOUNDREL ...

AN UCHIHA, EH...

I SEE...

SO YOU'VE LEARNED OF WHAT HAPPENED.

THIRD HOKAGE... WHY'D YOU MAKE ITACHI DO WHAT HE DID...?

NEVER MIND ME...

...

...KILLED ITACHI TO AVENGE THE UCHIHA CLAN...

I...

HOW-EVER...
ITACHI'S...

AFTERWARDS, I LEARNED THE TRUTH FROM TOBI AND DANZO...
AND LEANED TOWARDS SWEARING VENGEANCE AGAINST KONOHA.

SO IT CAME TO THAT, EH...

EVERYTHING REGARDING ITACHI.
HOWEVER, I WANT TO HEAR IT STRAIGHT FROM YOUR MOUTH.

...AND KEEP TABS ON THE AKATSUKI ALL BY HIMSELF.
NOT ONLY DID I HAVE HIM KILL HIS BRETHREN...
...I ALSO HAD HIM BEAR THE FALSE CHARGE OF TRAITOR...

...

HE WAS A SENSITIVE CHILD WHO UNDERSTOOD OUR VILLAGE'S PAST AND OUR SHINOBI...

FROM THE TIME HE WAS A SMALL CHILD, ITACHI PAID ATTENTION TO THE TEACHINGS AND SIGNS OF OUR PREDECESSORS THAT NO ONE ELSE GAVE HEED TO.

HE WAS ABLE TO THINK AHEAD, ABOUT THE FUTURE OF SHINOBI... AND OF THE VILLAGE...

AND CONSTANTLY HAD MISGIVINGS REGARDING THOSE FUTURES.

AND PERHAPS DUE TO THAT, ITACHI WAS NEVER BOUND BY THE TRAPPINGS OF CLAN...

AND HE EXECUTED HIS MISSIONS PERFECTLY.

WE LEFT EVERYTHING TO ITACHI, IN HIS HANDS ALONE...

AT ALL OF SEVEN YEARS OF AGE, HE THOUGHT QUITE LIKE A HOKAGE...

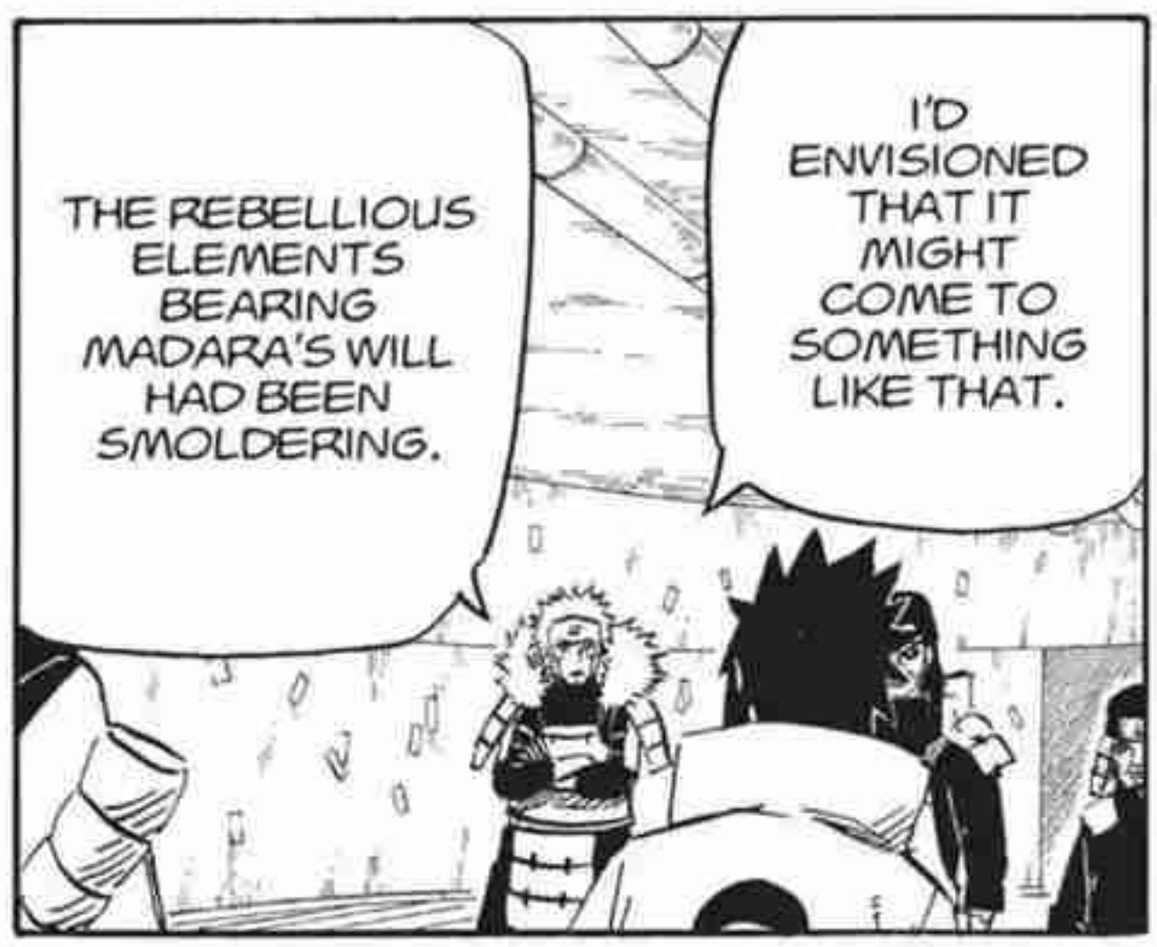
うちは

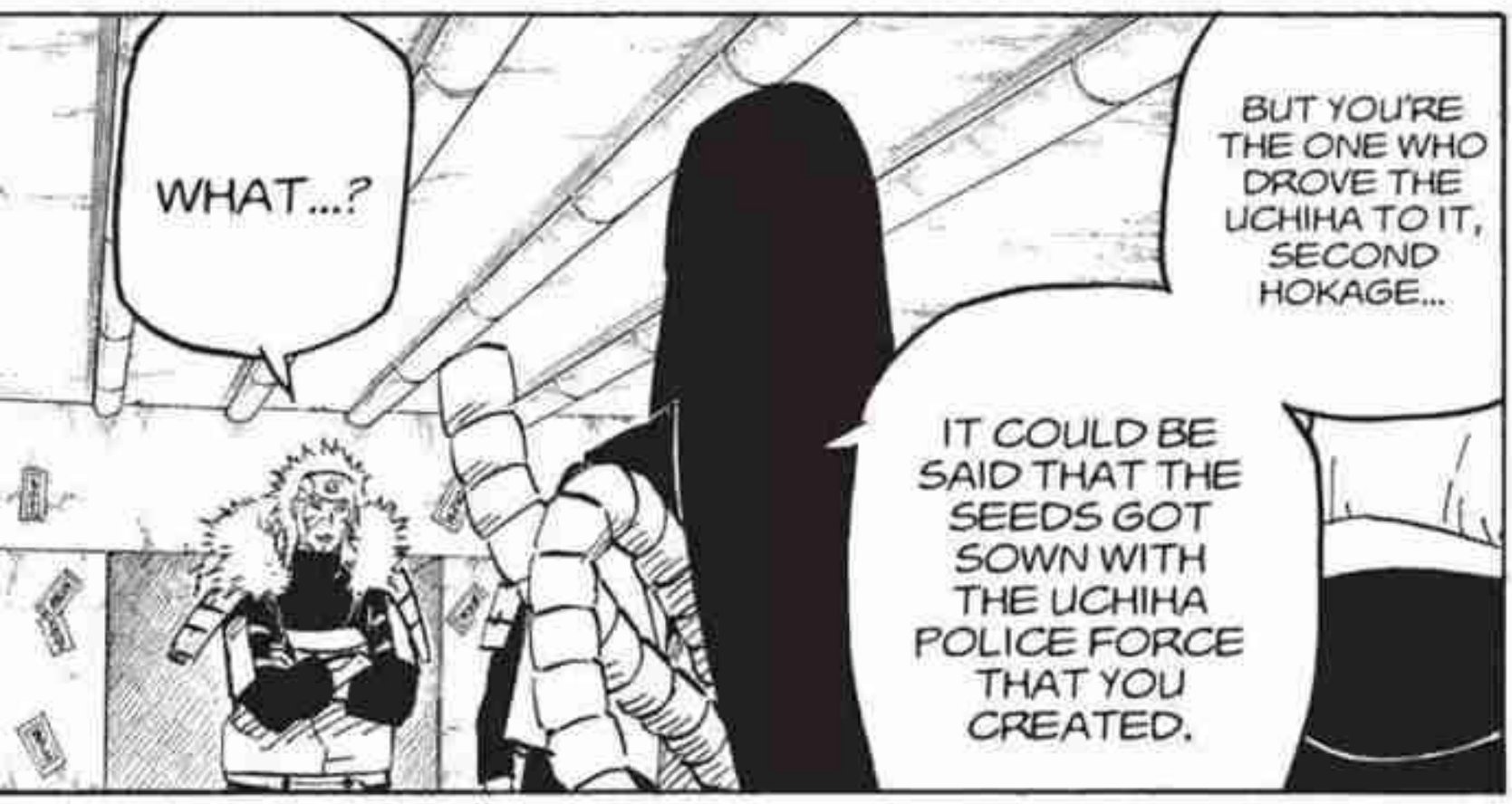
HE EVEN INFILTRATED THE AKATSUKI AS A SPY TO PROTECT THE VILLAGE.

ON THE CONDITION THAT I PROTECT *YOU* WITHIN THE VILLAGE.

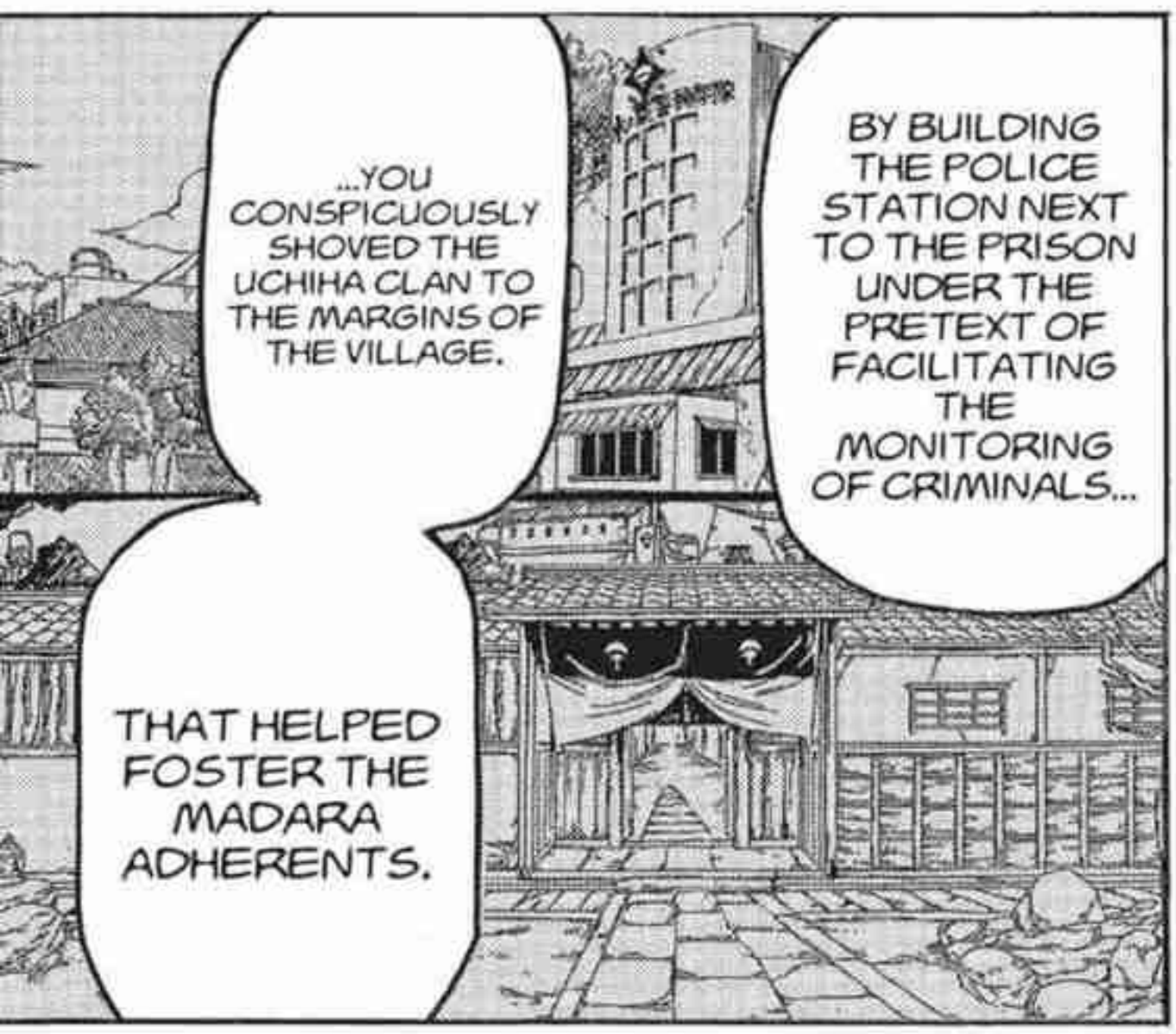
HE SLAUGHTERED ALL OF HIS BRETHREN, STOPPED A REVOLT...

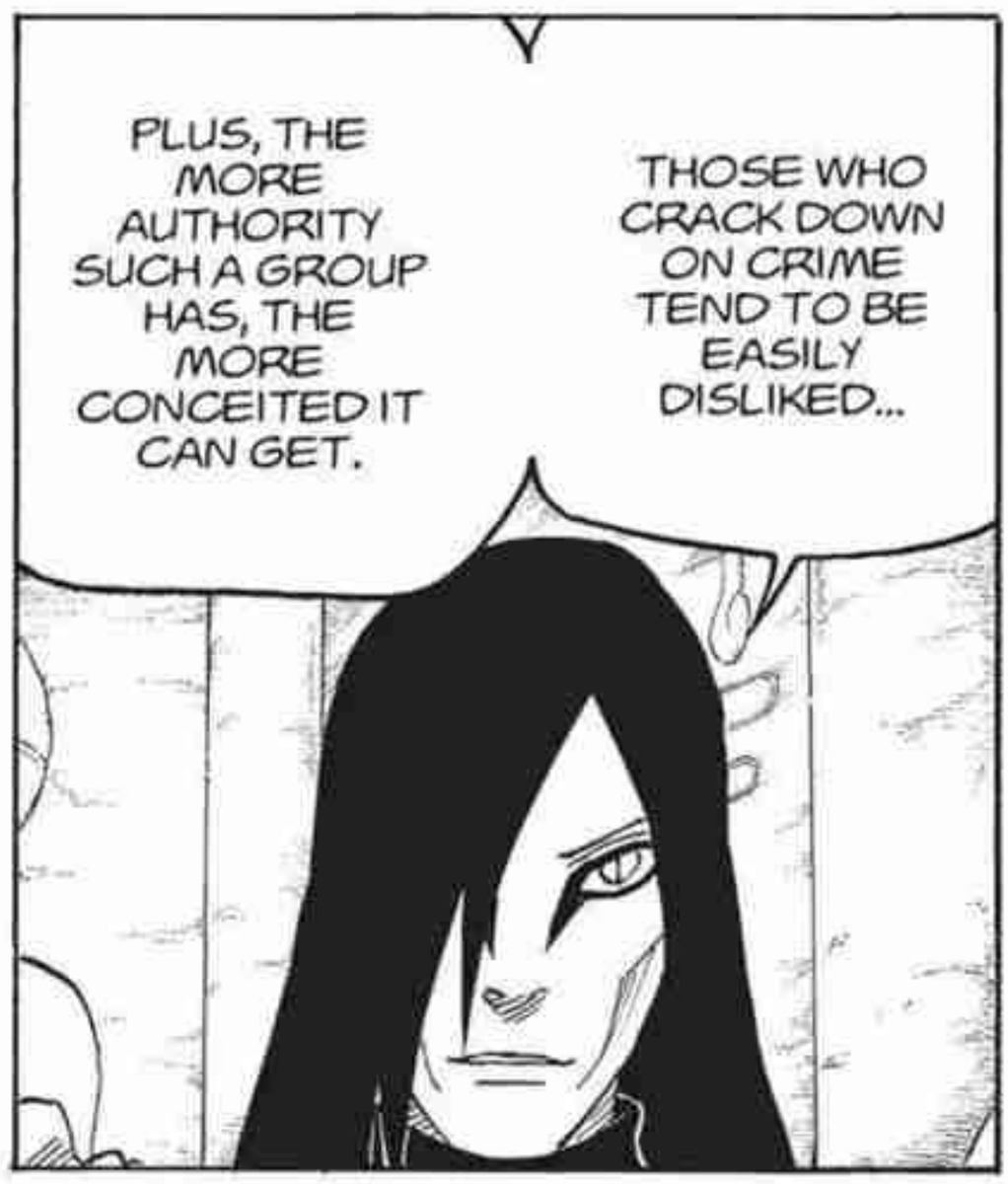
PREVENTED A COMING WAR ALL BY HIMSELF...



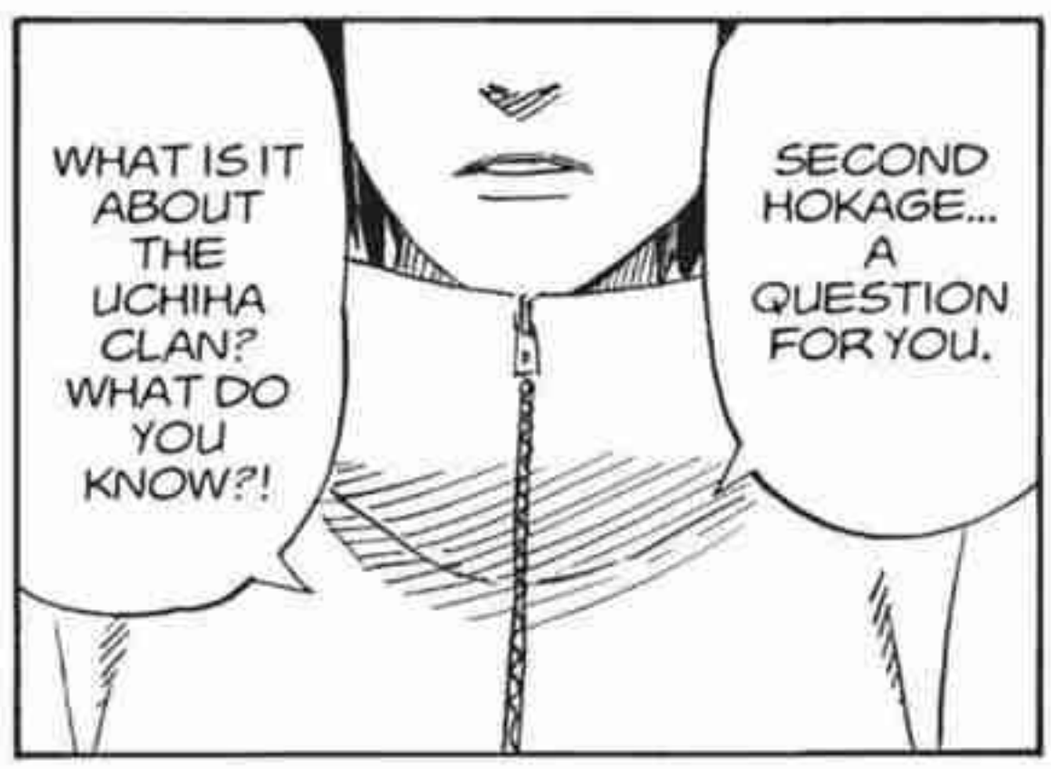

WHAT...?
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DROVE THE UCHIHA TO IT, SECOND HOKAGE...
IT COULD BE SAID THAT THE SEEDS GOT SOWN WITH THE UCHIHA POLICE FORCE THAT YOU CREATED.

...

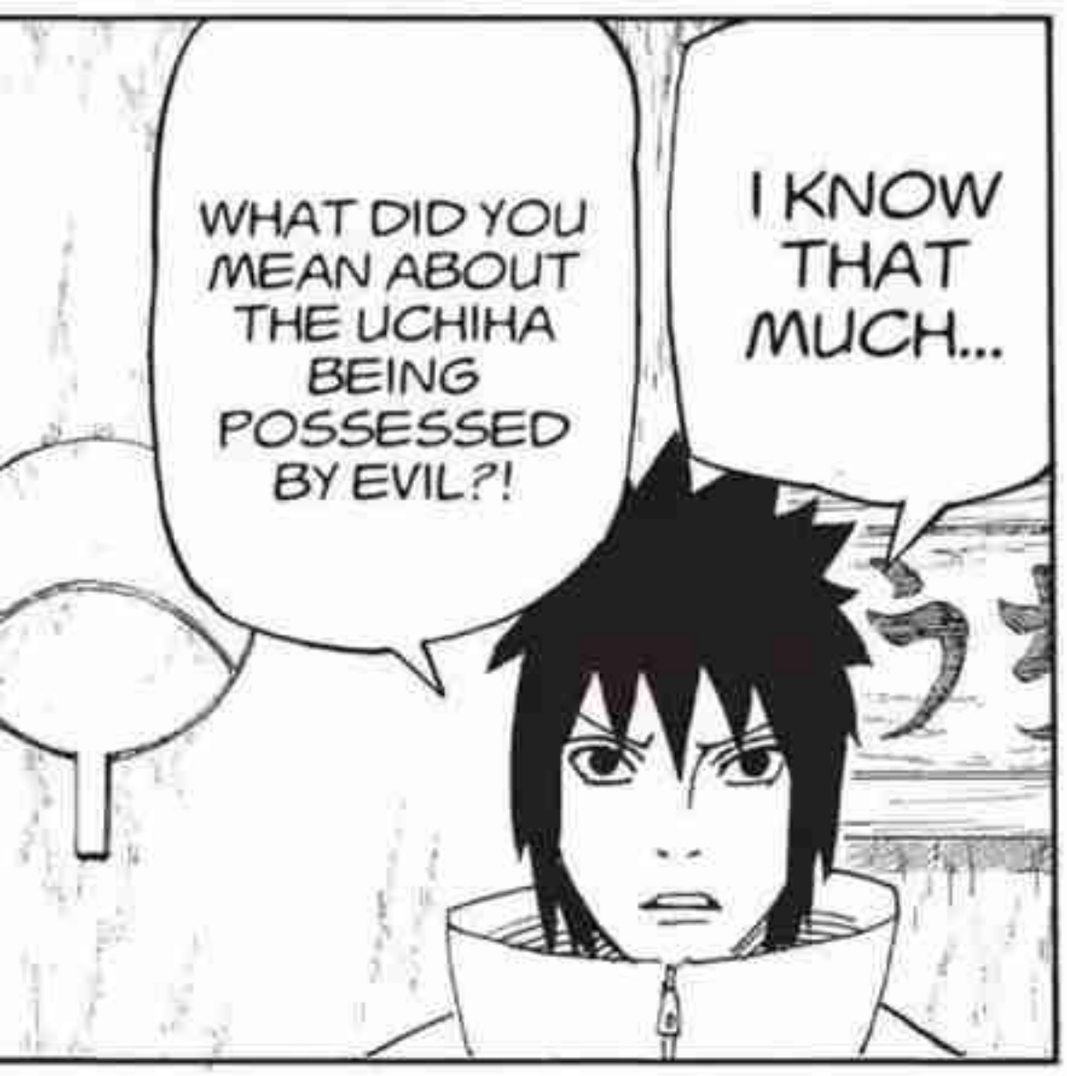

...YOU CONSPICUOUSLY SHOVED THE UCHIHA CLAN TO THE MARGINS OF THE VILLAGE.
BY BUILDING THE POLICE STATION NEXT TO THE PRISON UNDER THE PRETEXT OF FACILITATING THE MONITORING OF CRIMINALS...
THAT HELPED FOSTER THE MADARA ADHERENTS.


PLUS, THE MORE AUTHORITY SUCH A GROUP HAS, THE MORE CONCEITED IT CAN GET.
THOSE WHO CRACK DOWN ON CRIME TEND TO BE EASILY DISLIKED...

AS YOU WELL KNOW, ELDER BROTHER... THE UCHIHA ARE...
BUT I GAVE THEM POSITIONS THAT THEY WERE EMINENTLY QUALIFIED FOR!
AND I BELIEVED THAT EVEN IF ANOTHER MADARA WERE TO EMERGE, HE COULD BE DEALT WITH RIGHT AWAY!
TOBIRAMA! DID I NOT EMPHASIZE TO YOU OVER AND OVER AGAIN NOT TO SLIGHT THE UCHIHA?!



...A CLAN POSSESSED BY EVIL...!!

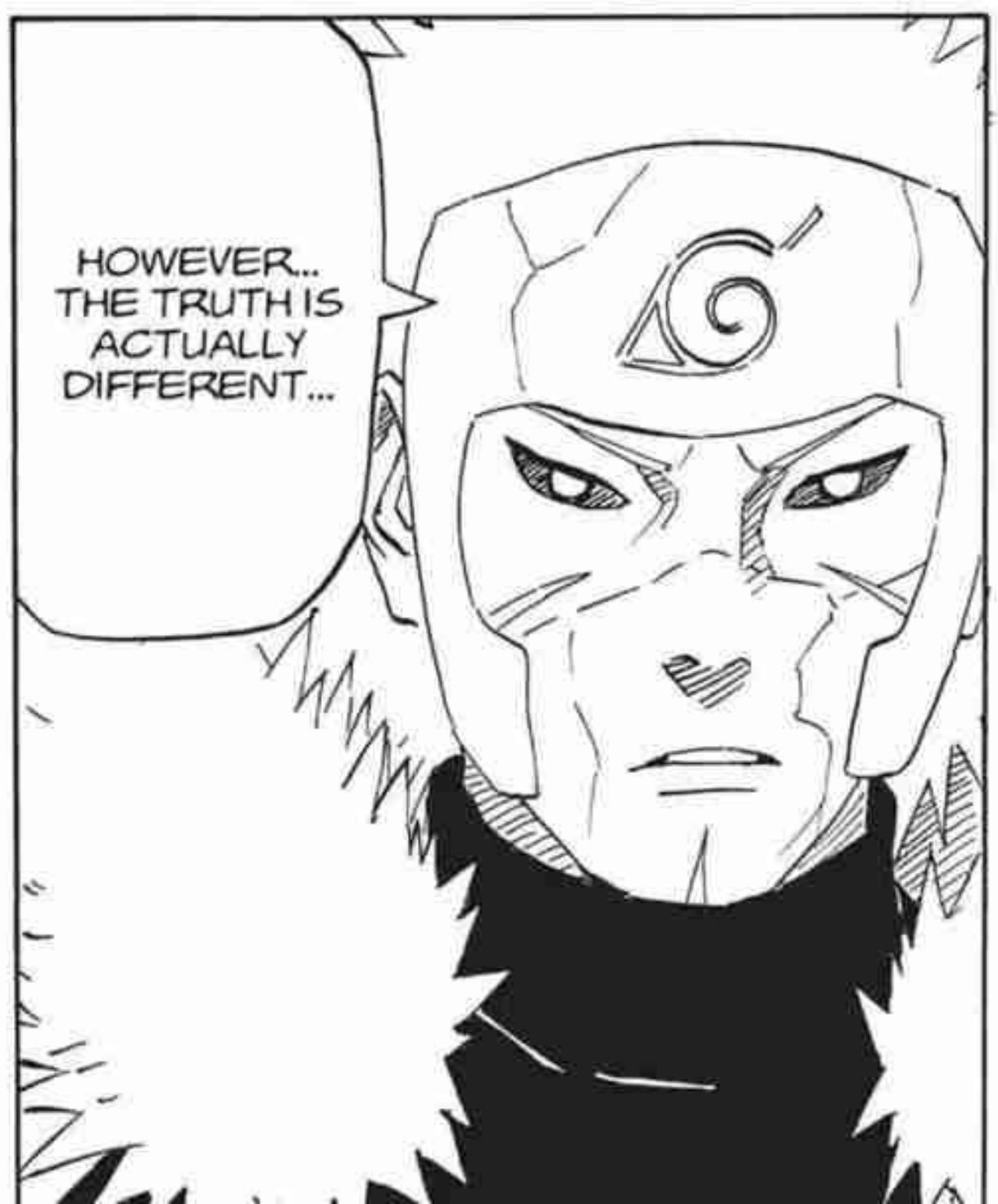

WHAT DID YOU MEAN ABOUT THE UCHIHA BEING POSSESSED BY EVIL?!
I KNOW THAT MUCH...

IN FACT, THE TWO CLANS ORIGINALLY WERE ENEMIES.
THE UCHIHA CLAN AND OUR SENJU CLAN HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF BATTLING EACH OTHER.

...THE BASIS OF THE UCHIHA CLAN'S STRENGTH WAS THE POWER OF THEIR JUTSU.
THERE USED TO BE A THOUGHT THAT IN CONTRAST TO THE SENJU CLAN, WHO BASED THEIR STRENGTH IN LOVE AS OPPOSED TO JUTSU...

...

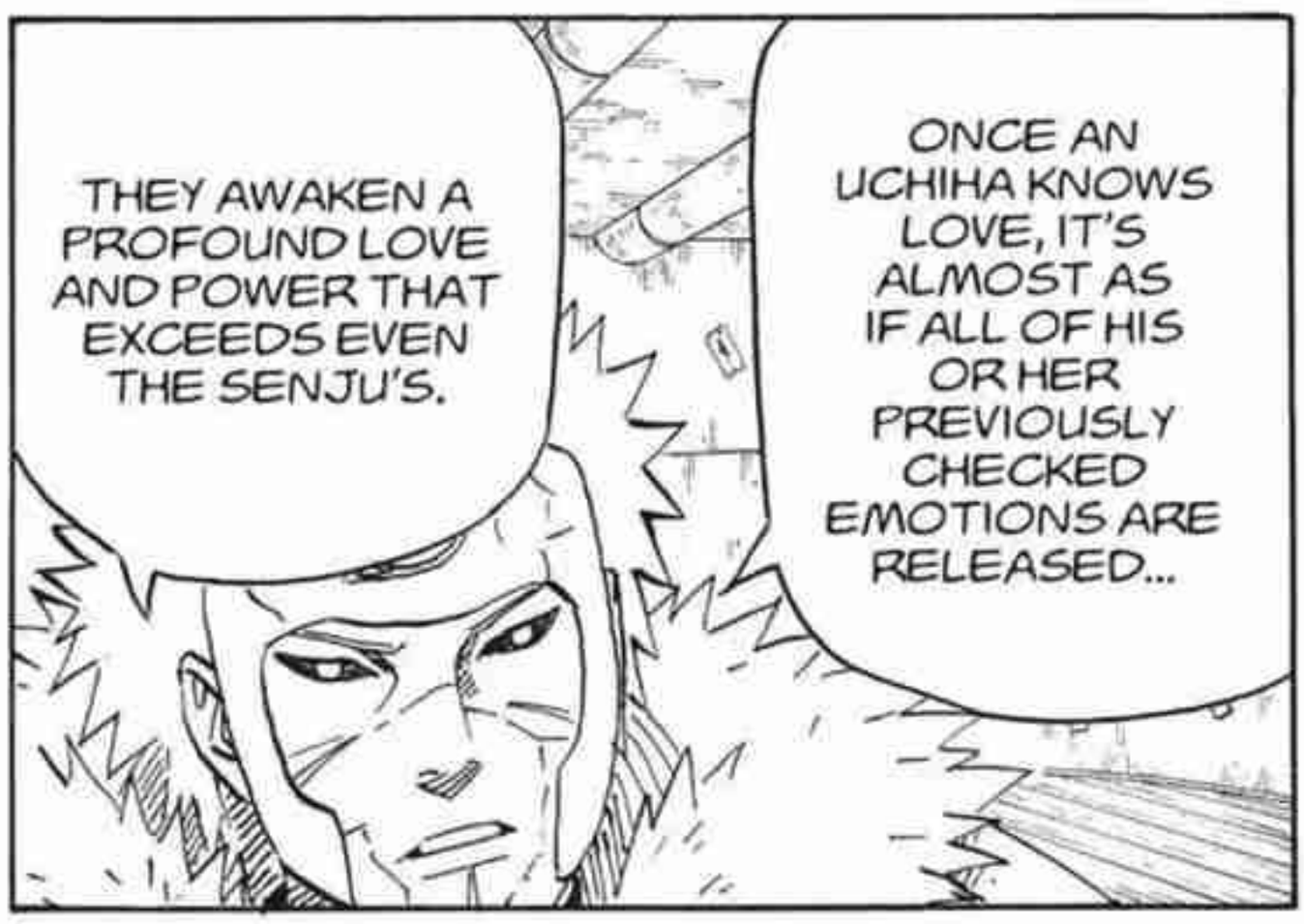
?!

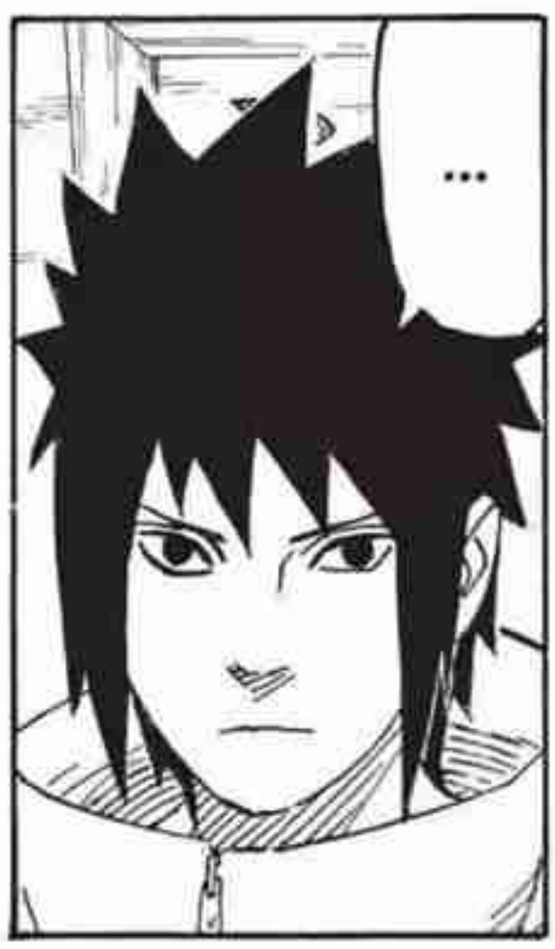

HOWEVER... THE TRUTH IS ACTUALLY DIFFERENT...

?

AND THAT IS WHY THE UCHIHA HAVE SUPPRESSED AND SEALED IT AWAY.

THERE IS NO CLAN THAT FEELS DEEPER LOVE THAN THE UCHIHA.





I HAVE SEEN IT HAPPEN QUITE A FEW TIMES.

AND THAT'S WHEN A CERTAIN SPECIAL CONDITION EMERGES.

SPECIAL CONDI-TION...?

WHEN AN UCHIHA WHO HAS KNOWN LOVE THEN LOSES THAT DEEP LOVE...

...IT IS REPLACED BY AN EVEN STRONGER HATE THAT CHANGES THEM.

...A UNIQUE CHAKRA GETS RELEASED INSIDE HIS OR HER BRAIN AND REACTS WITH THE OPTIC NERVES, AND CHANGES APPEAR IN THAT PERSON'S EYES.

WHEN AN UCHIHA INDIVIDUAL WRITHES IN AGONY OVER THE LOSS OF A GREAT LOVE OR DISAPPOINTMENT IN HIMSELF...

...

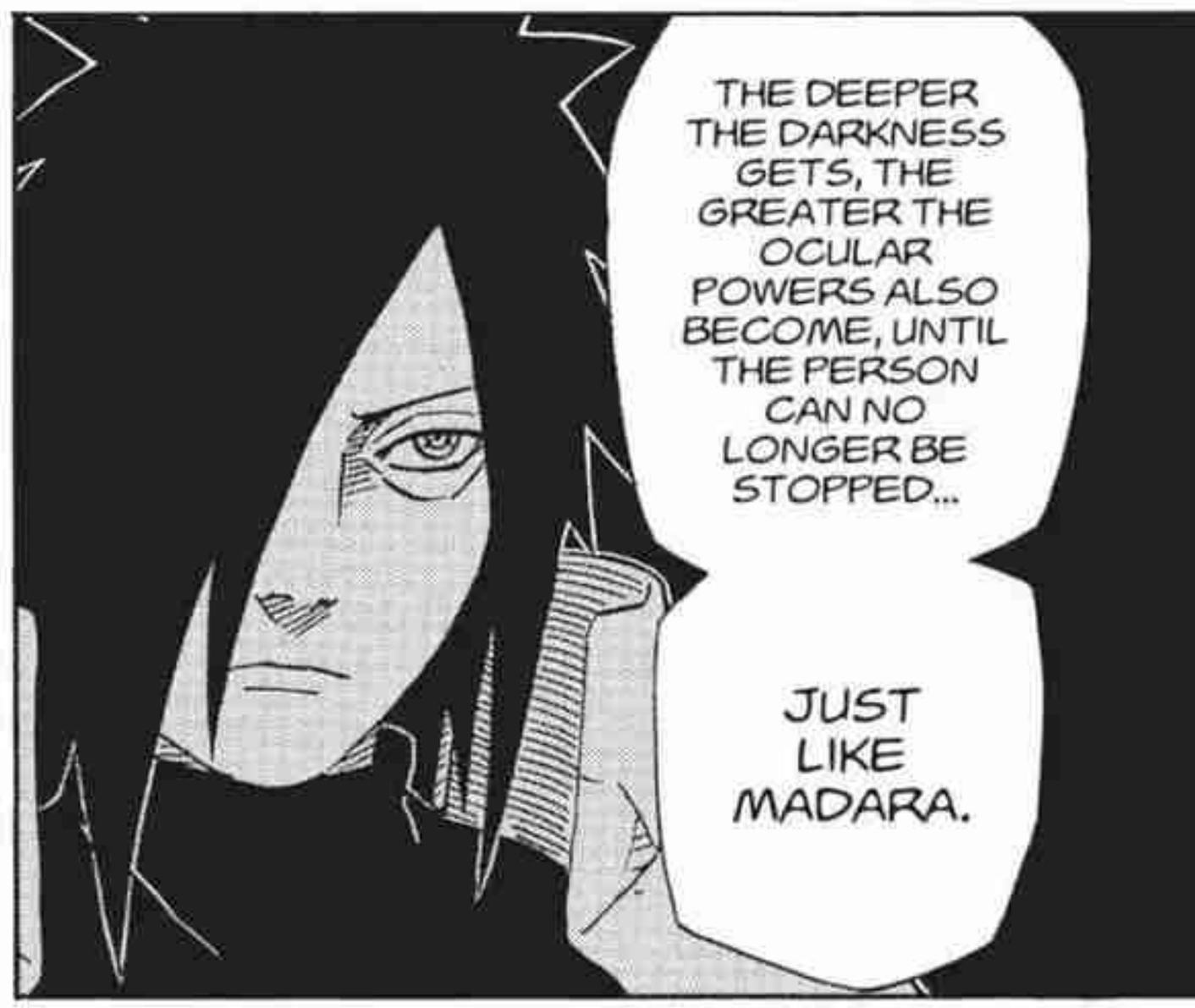
THE EYES THAT REFLECT THE HEART.

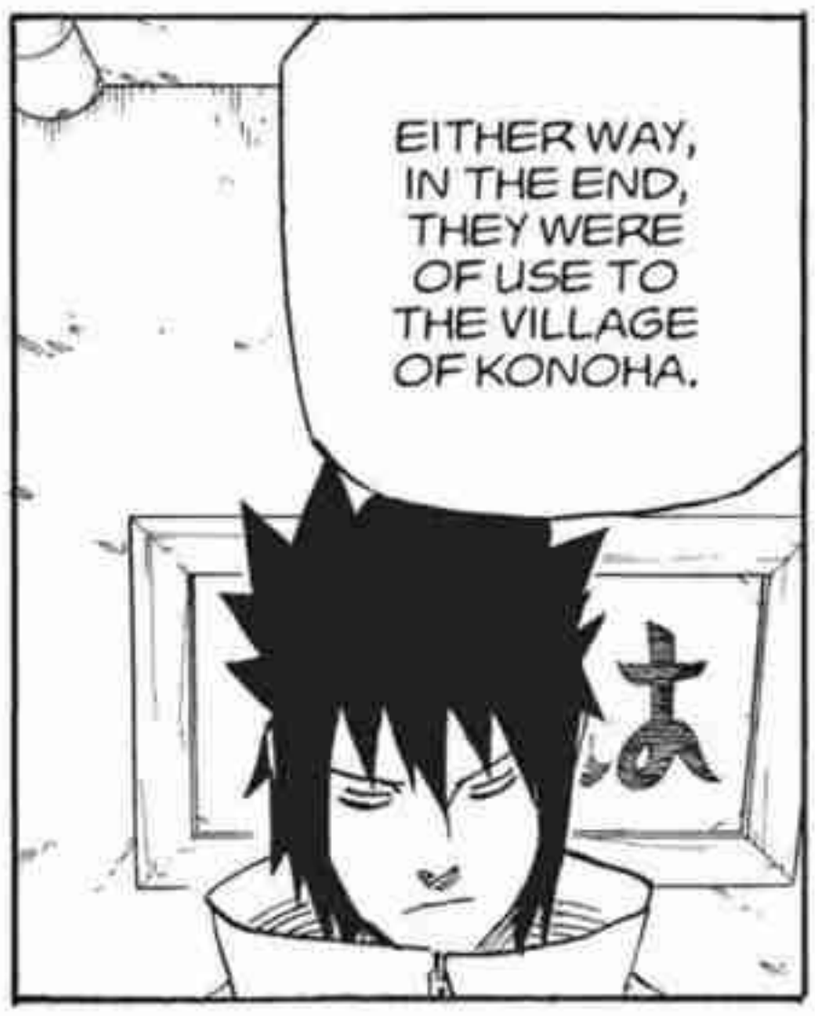
THIS IS THE PHENOMENON CALLED THE SHARINGAN...

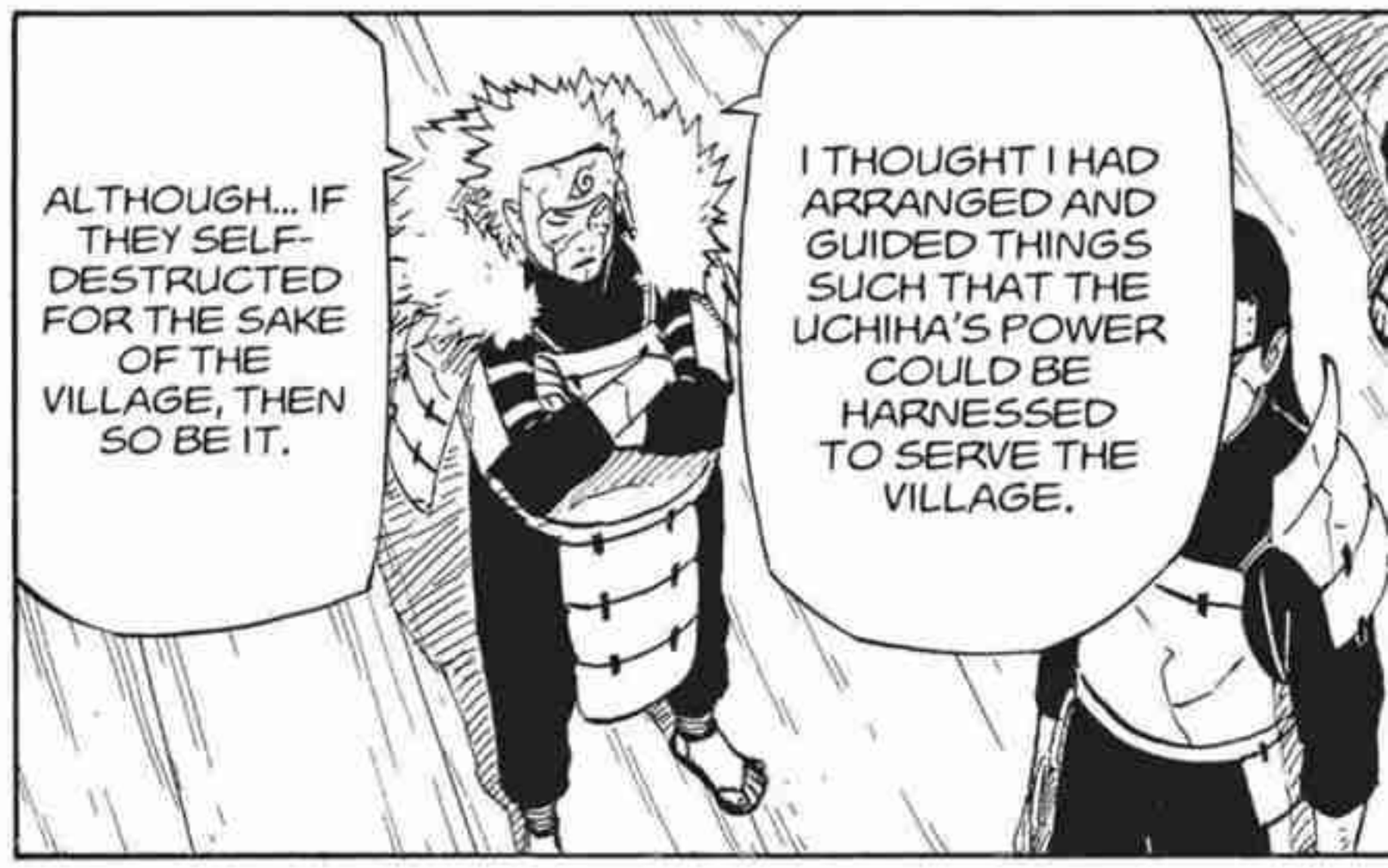
AND NEARLY ALL WHO WERE EXPOSED TO STRONG EMOTIONS WERE TAKEN BY DARKNESS AND FELL TO EVIL.
THERE WERE MANY SENSITIVE INDIVIDUALS AMONG THE UCHIHA...

THE SHARINGAN TAPS INTO THE POWER OF THAT PERSON'S HEART, RAPIDLY INCREASING HIS OR HER STRENGTH...
...ALONG WITH THE POWER OF THEIR HATE...

MADARA CARED INTENSELY ABOUT HIS LITTLE BROTHER... LIKELY EVEN MORE SO THAN YOUR BROTHER.


THE DEEPER THE DARKNESS GETS, THE GREATER THE OCULAR POWERS ALSO BECOME, UNTIL THE PERSON CAN NO LONGER BE STOPPED...
JUST LIKE MADARA.


EITHER WAY, IN THE END, THEY WERE OF USE TO THE VILLAGE OF KONOHA.

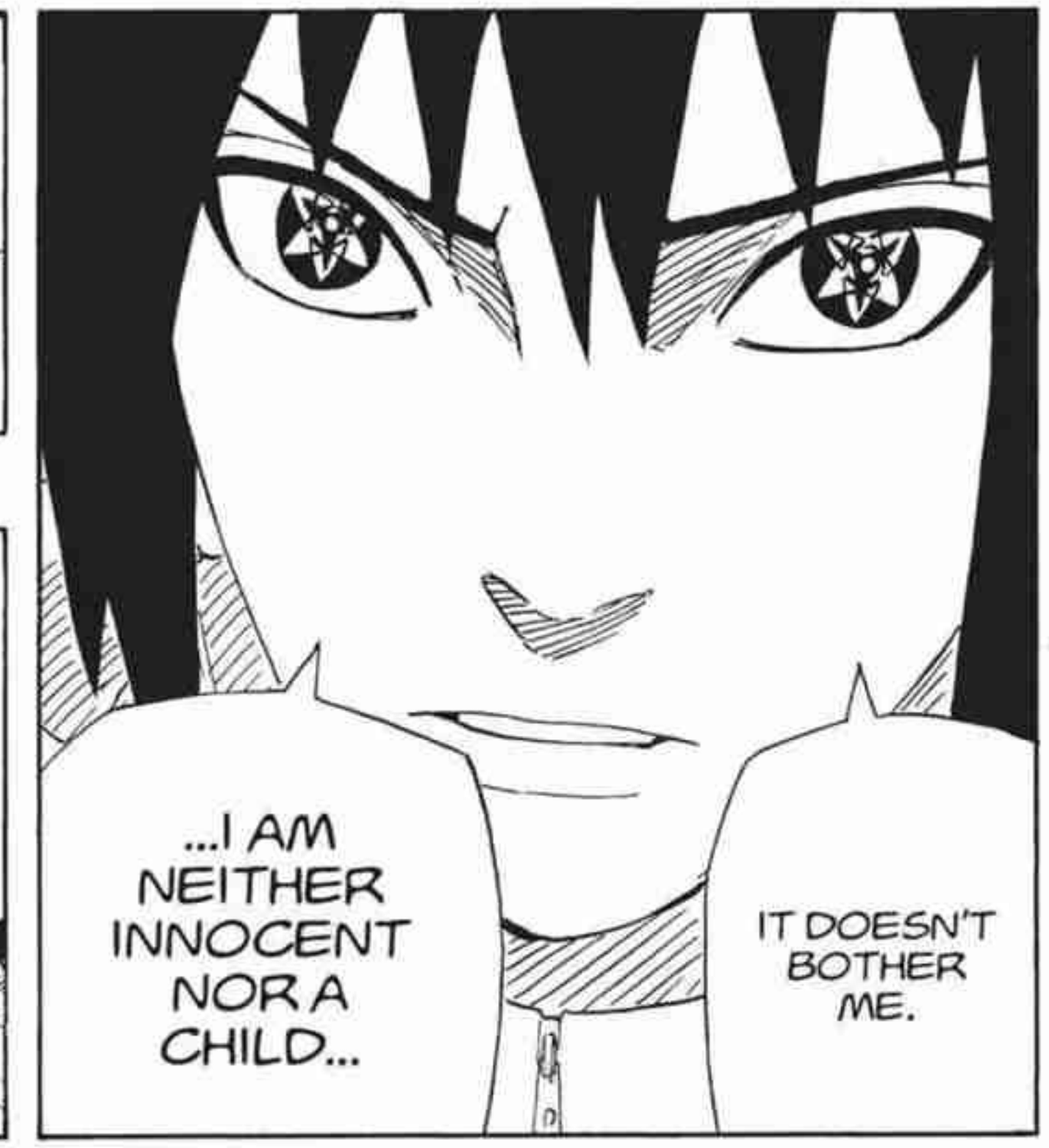

ALTHOUGH... IF THEY SELF-DESTRUCTED FOR THE SAKE OF THE VILLAGE, THEN SO BE IT.
I THOUGHT I HAD ARRANGED AND GUIDED THINGS SUCH THAT THE UCHIHA'S POWER COULD BE HARNESSED TO SERVE THE VILLAGE.

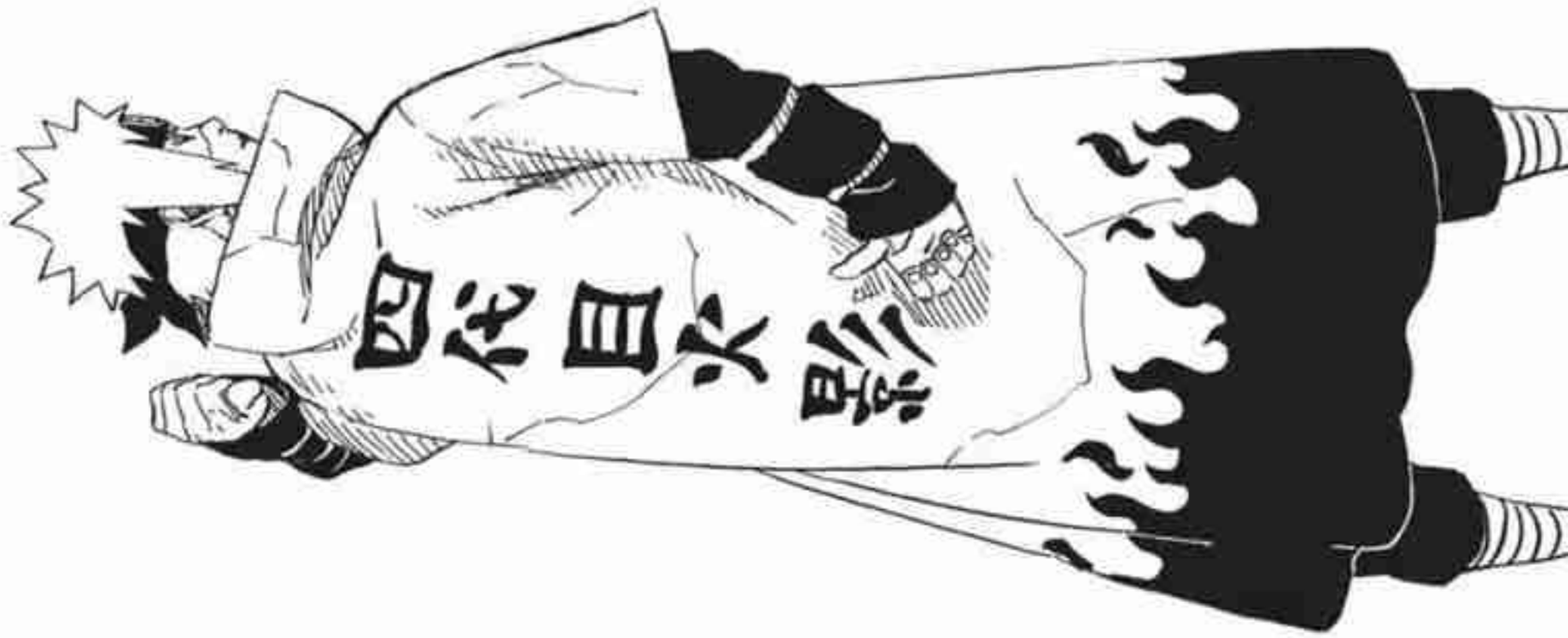
WHAT IS ALL-IMPORTANT IS THE VILLAGE. THE VILLAGE IS THE KEYSTONE.

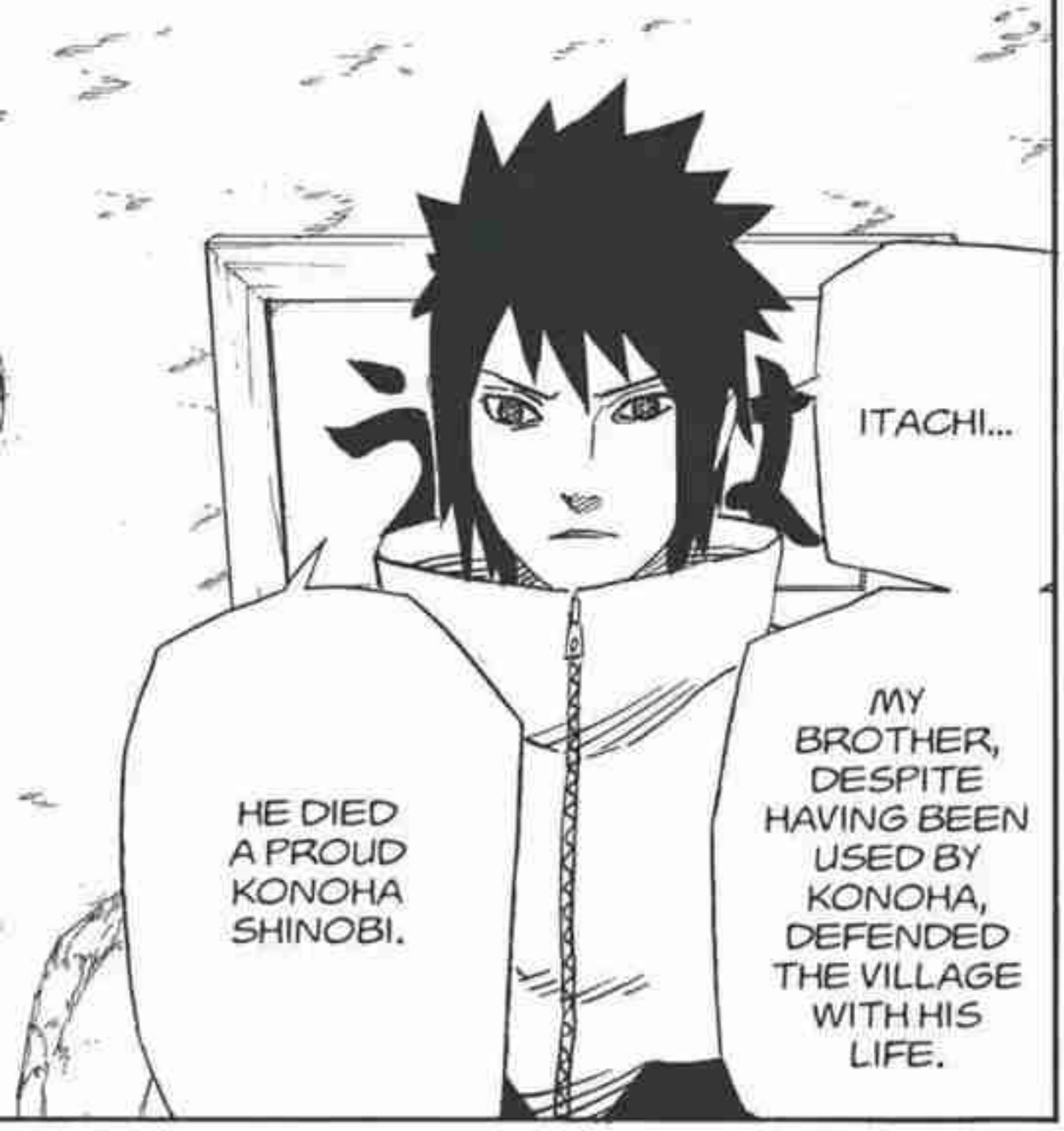
I KNOW YOU KNOW THAT TOO, ELDER BROTHER.

TOBIRAMA, WILL YOU QUIT SAYING SUCH THINGS?!

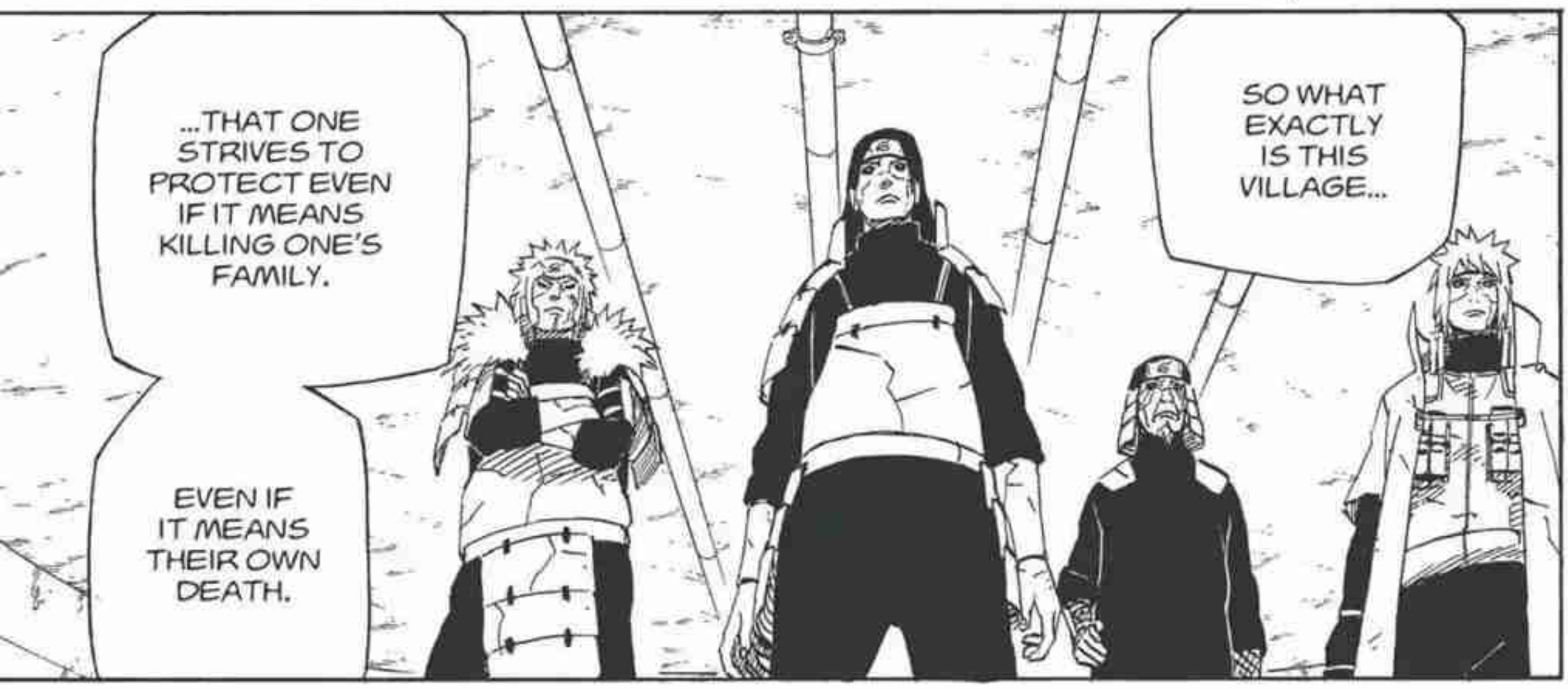
YOUR AUDIENCE IS AN INNOCENT UCHIHA CHILD!

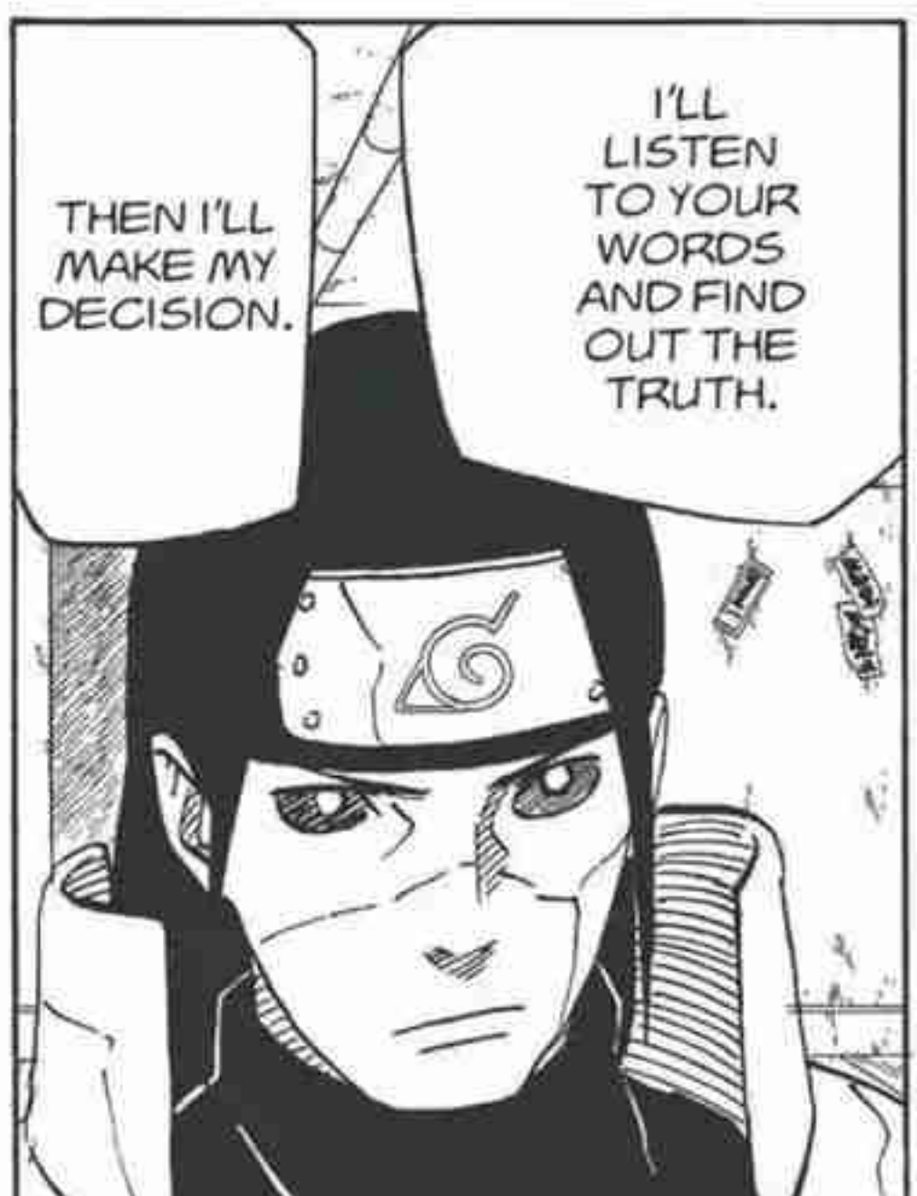


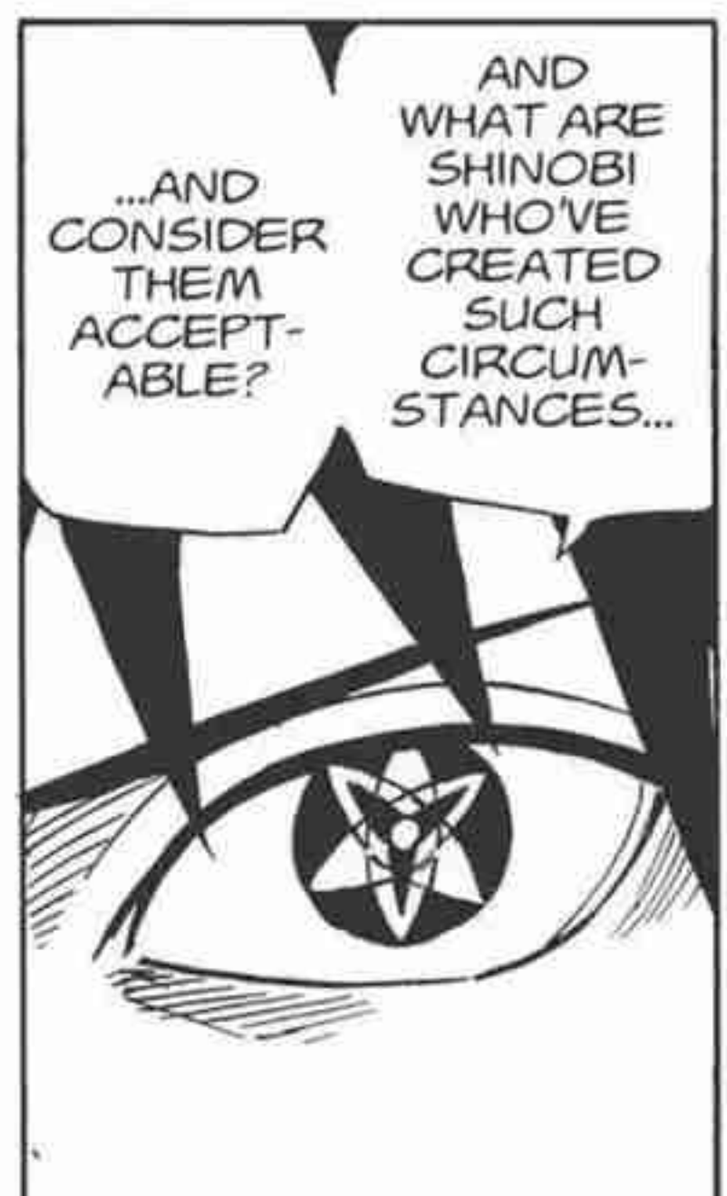




Number 620: Senju Hashirama

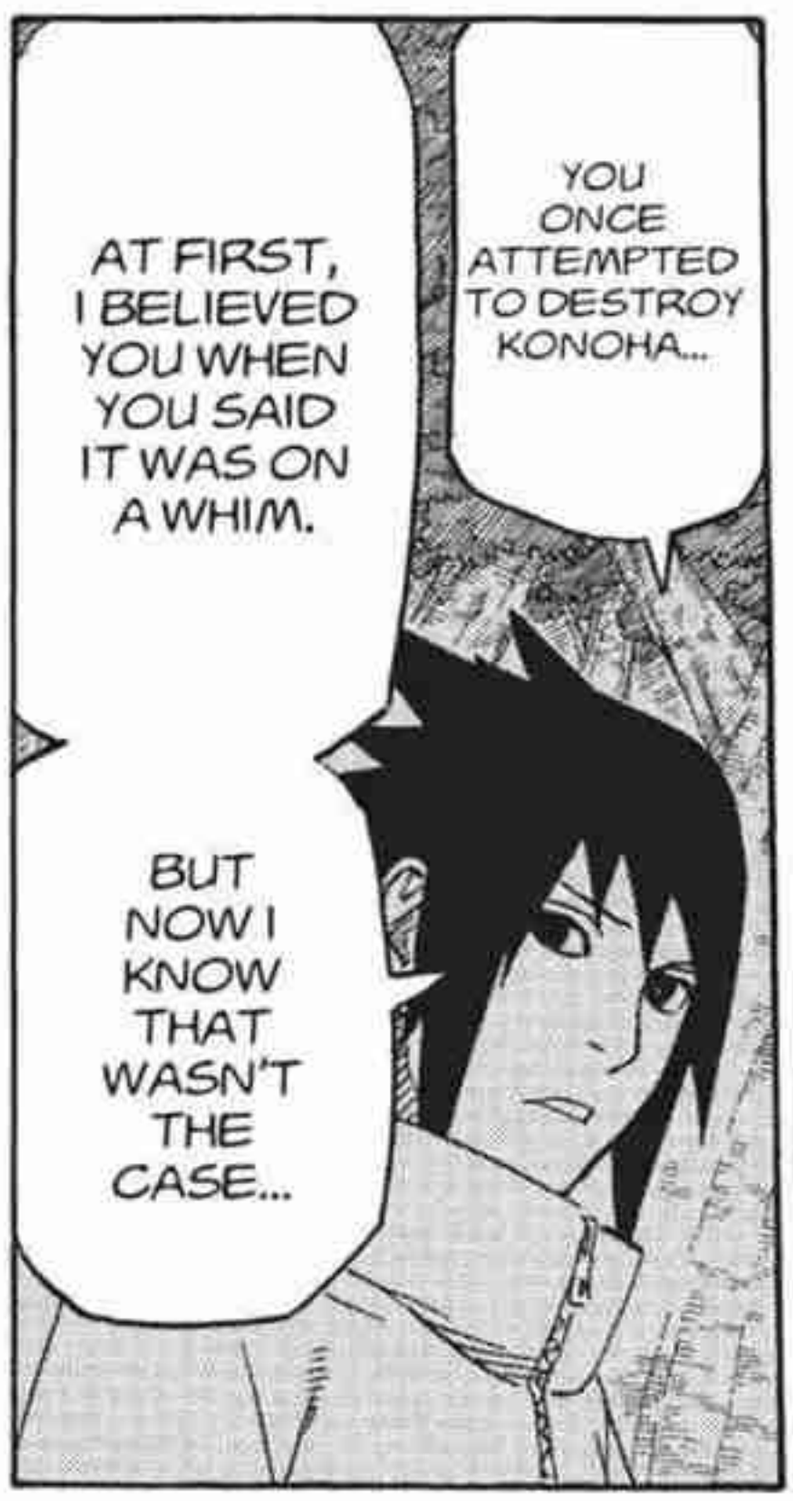


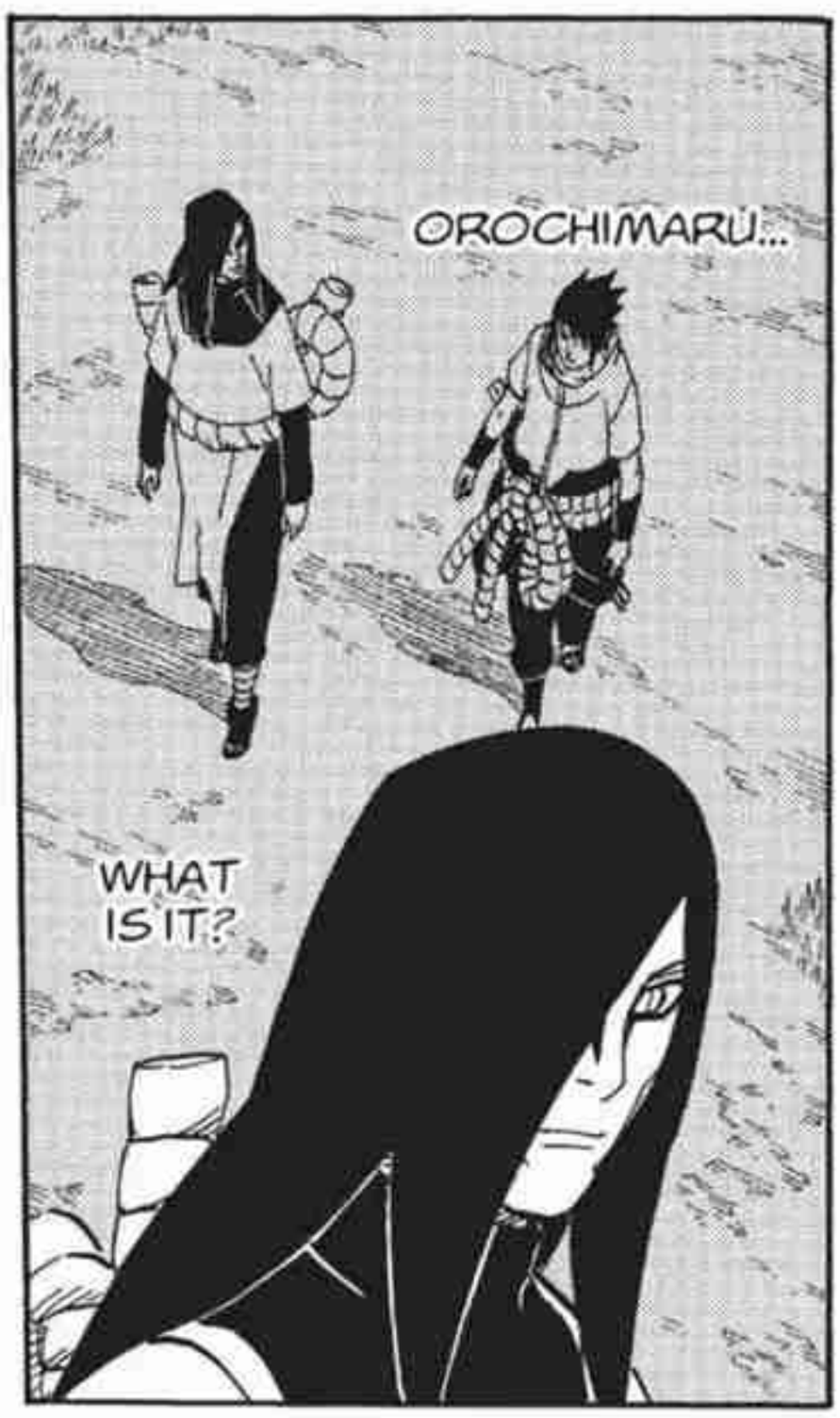




...OR...

WHETHER TO DECLARE VENGEANCE AGAINST KONOHA...





DAMN BRAT POSSESSED BY UCHIHA EVIL!
VENGEANCE AGAINST KONOHA?!

...

SO... WHAT WAS THE REAL REASON?

IN THAT CASE, I'LL...

!!
!!
!!

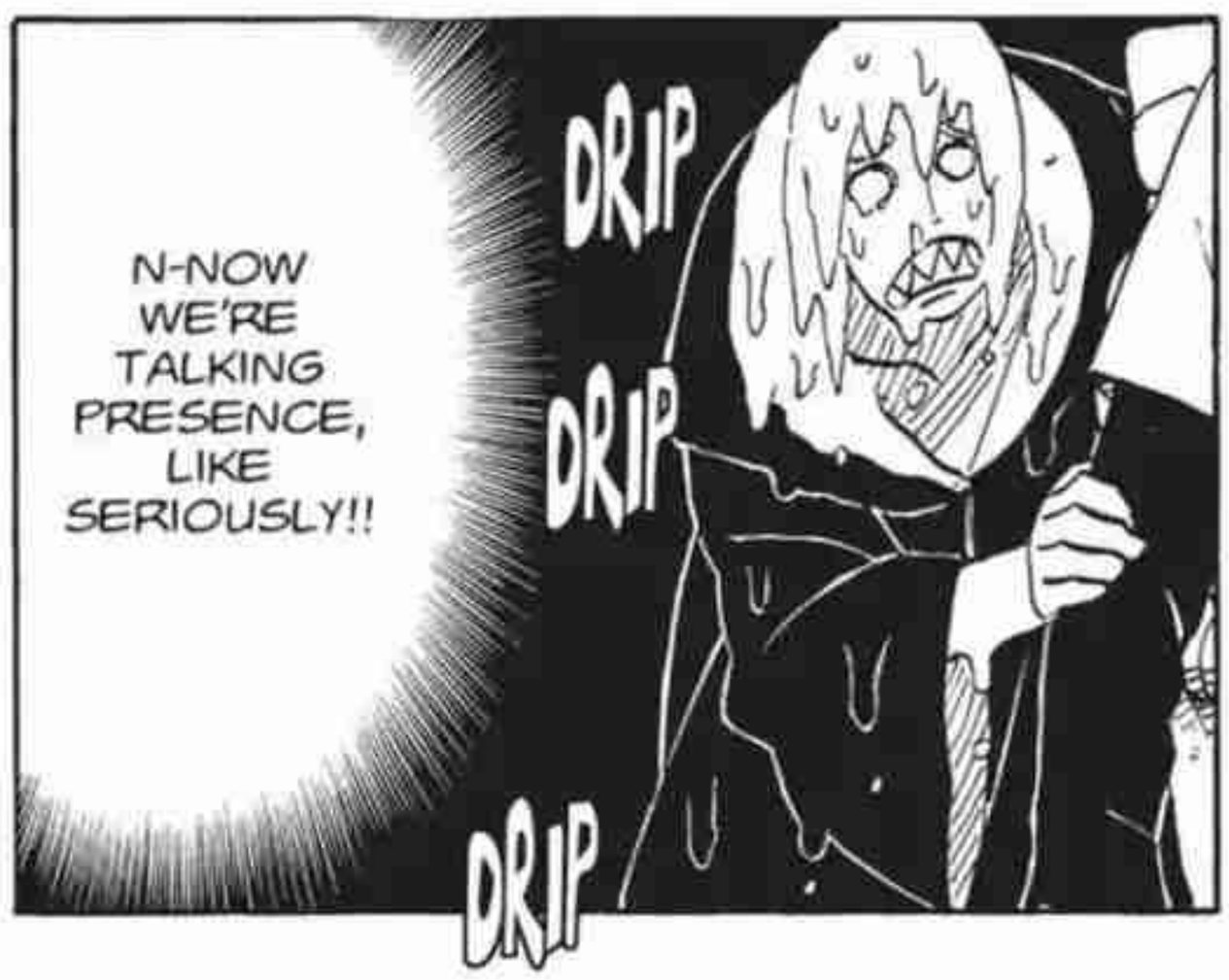
LORD SECOND !!
!!

TWITCH

TOBIRAMA...

WOOSH

...


N-NOW WE'RE TALKING PRESENCE, LIKE SERIOUSLY!!
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP

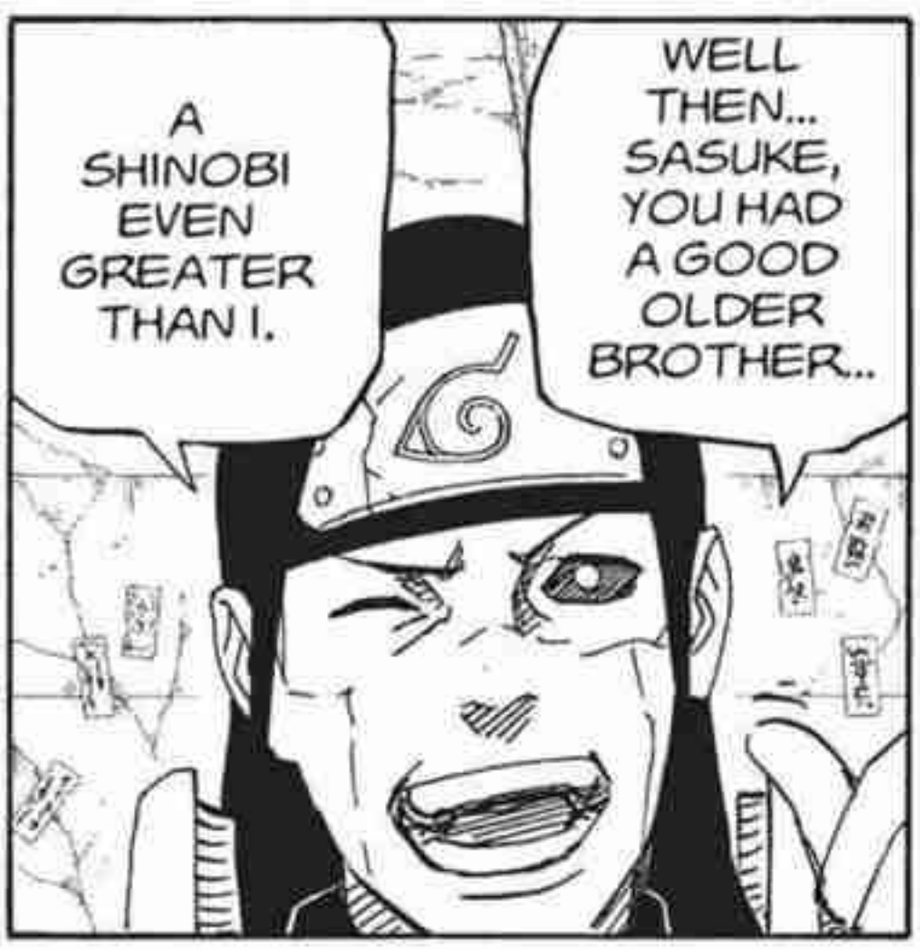
...
BROTHER.
OH, ALL RIGHT... DON'T RILE UP YOUR CHAKRA SO...
TAT

LOWER YOUR FINGER...

...

HEH HEH, SORRY ABOUT THAT!!

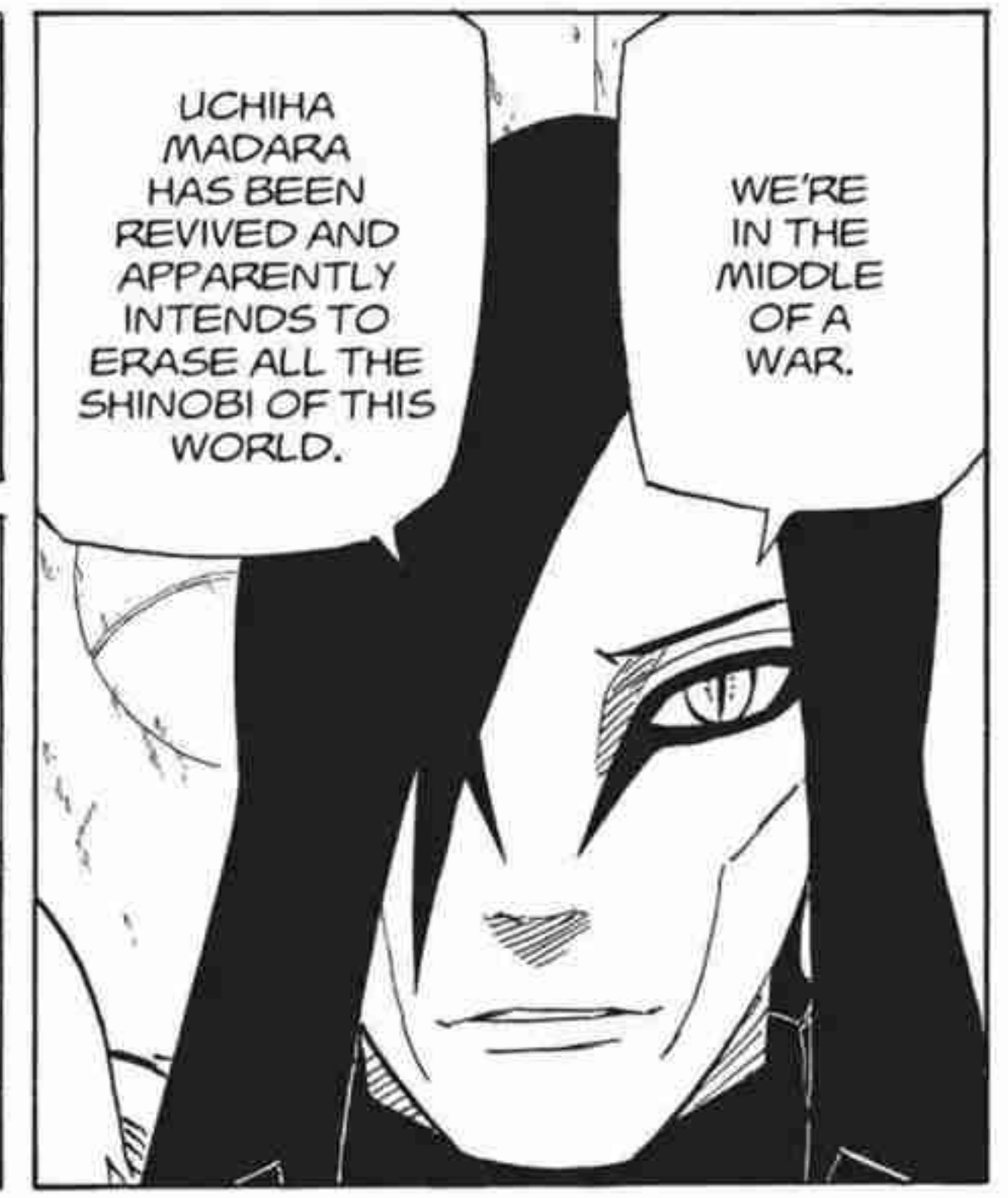
GWA HA HA HA!!



NO TIME?

IF POSSIBLE, COULD YOU PLEASE TELL THIS CHILD EVERYTHING HE WANTS TO KNOW QUICKLY?
WE DON'T REALLY HAVE MUCH TIME.
I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU ABOUT THE VILLAGE, BUT IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME.

!!

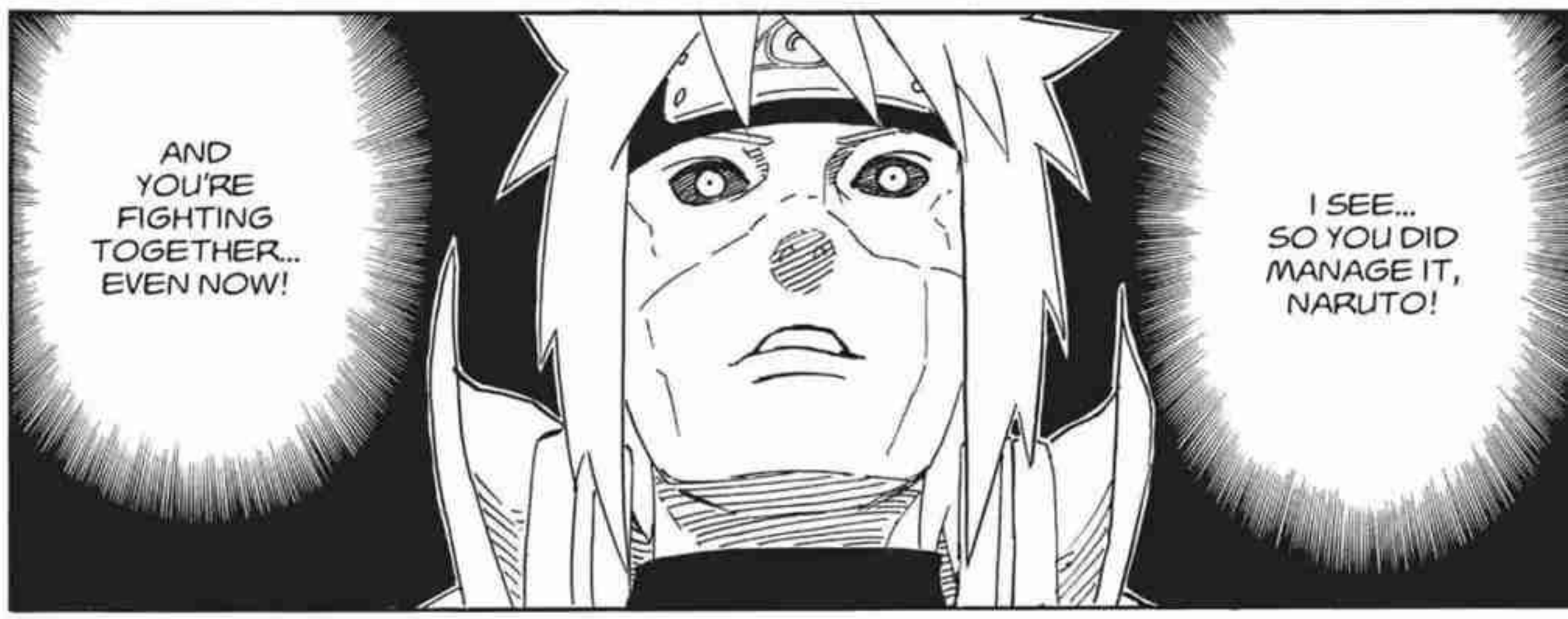

UCHIHA MADARA HAS BEEN REVIVED AND APPARENTLY INTENDS TO ERASE ALL THE SHINOBI OF THIS WORLD.
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A WAR.

...

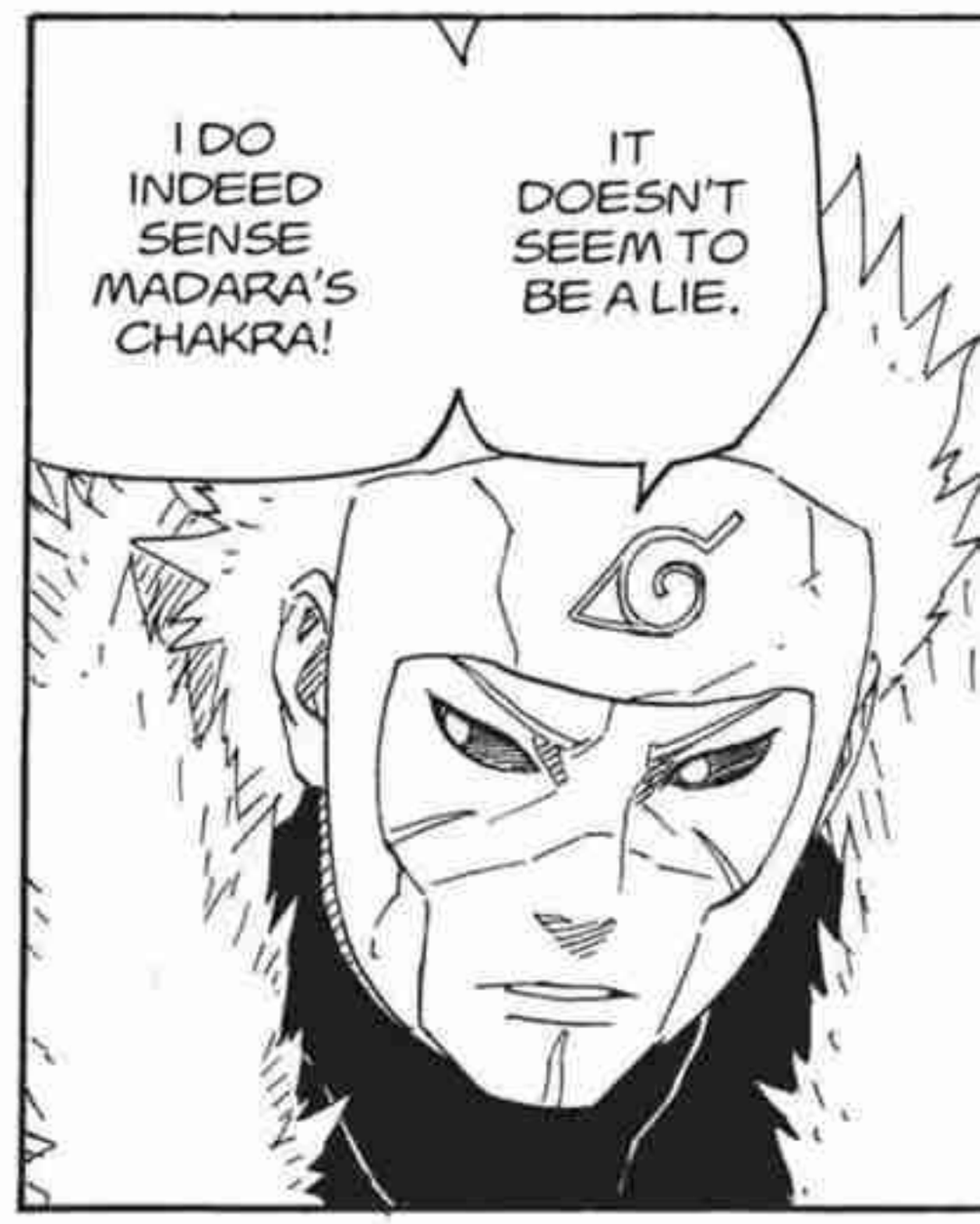
ALWAYS CONFLICT, NO MATTER WHAT THE ERA...
...

SHUP
...
THAT'S NARUTO AND NINE TAILS' CHAKRA!

SHUP...
...IN THE DIRECTION OF TWO O'CLOCK...
I DO SENSE POWERFUL CHAKRA...

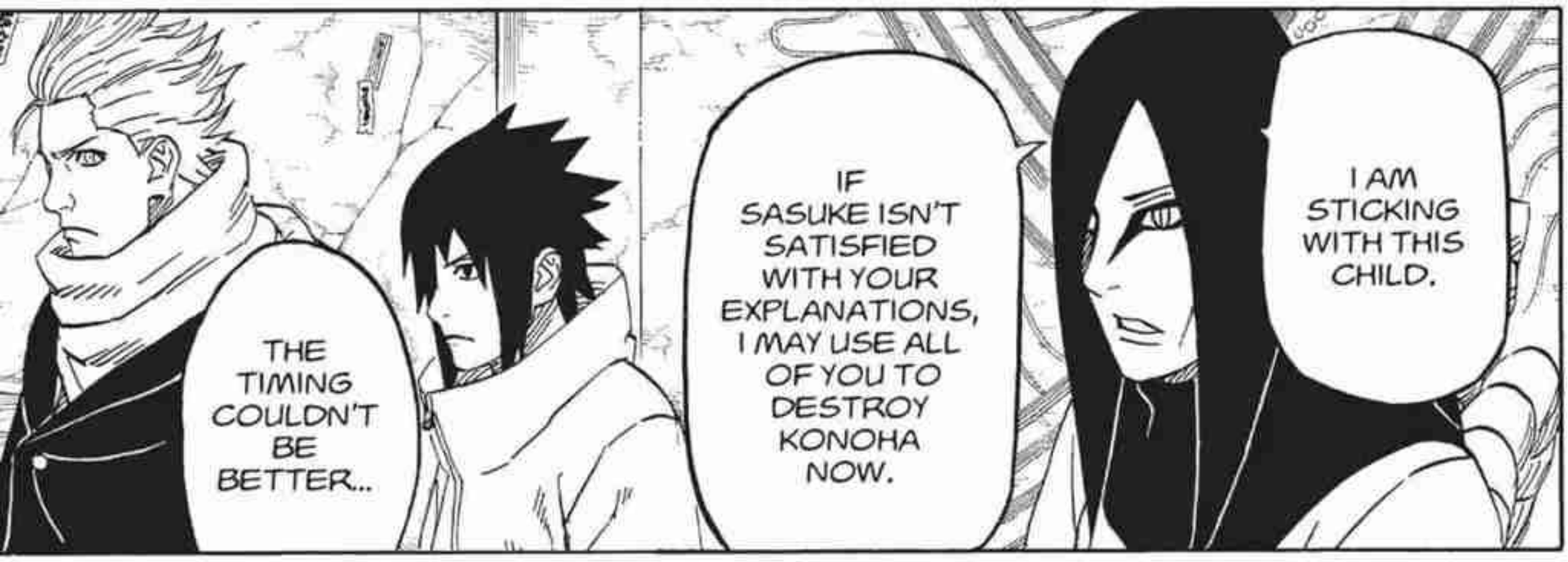

AND YOU'RE FIGHTING TOGETHER... EVEN NOW!
I SEE... SO YOU DID MANAGE IT, NARUTO!

AS ALL OF YOU ARE UNDER THE CONTROL OF MY EDOTENSEI JUTSU, YOUR MOVEMENTS CAN BE RESTRICTED...
THEN WE OUGHT TO HEAD TO THE BATTLEFIELD!!


I DO INDEED SENSE MADARA'S CHAKRA!
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A LIE.

DO YOU TRULY UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY OF MADARA HAVING BEEN REVIVED?!
TALK LATER!

IF YOU INSIST, YOU MAY HEAD TO THE BATTLE-FIELD AFTER WE FINISH TALKING.


THE TIMING COULDN'T BE BETTER...
IF SASUKE ISN'T SATISFIED WITH YOUR EXPLANATIONS, I MAY USE ALL OF YOU TO DESTROY KONOHA NOW.
I AM STICKING WITH THIS CHILD.

OROCHIMARU, IS IT? YOU SEEM TO BE MISUNDER-STANDING SOMETHING...
HOW DARE YOU!!
GRRR...!
QUIV
QUIV

...

...

NOW THAT WE'VE BEEN REVIVED AT CLOSE TO OUR ORIGINAL POWER...

TUP

THE FACT THAT YOU'VE UPPED THE PRECISION OF THE EDOTENSEI SINCE LAST TIME SHALL BE YOUR DOWNFALL.

I MUST ACT!

ELDER BROTHER, YOU MUST AGREE THAT WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

DO NOT FORGET, I AM THE ONE WHO DEVISED THIS JUTSU IN THE FIRST PLACE.

...I AM NOT SOMEONE WHO CAN BE BOUND BY THE EDOTENSEI OF ONE SUCH AS YOURSELF!

SP

LICH

I CANNOT MOVE...!

QUIN

...

QUIN

SARUTOBI... YOU SURE RAISED QUITE A SHINOBI.

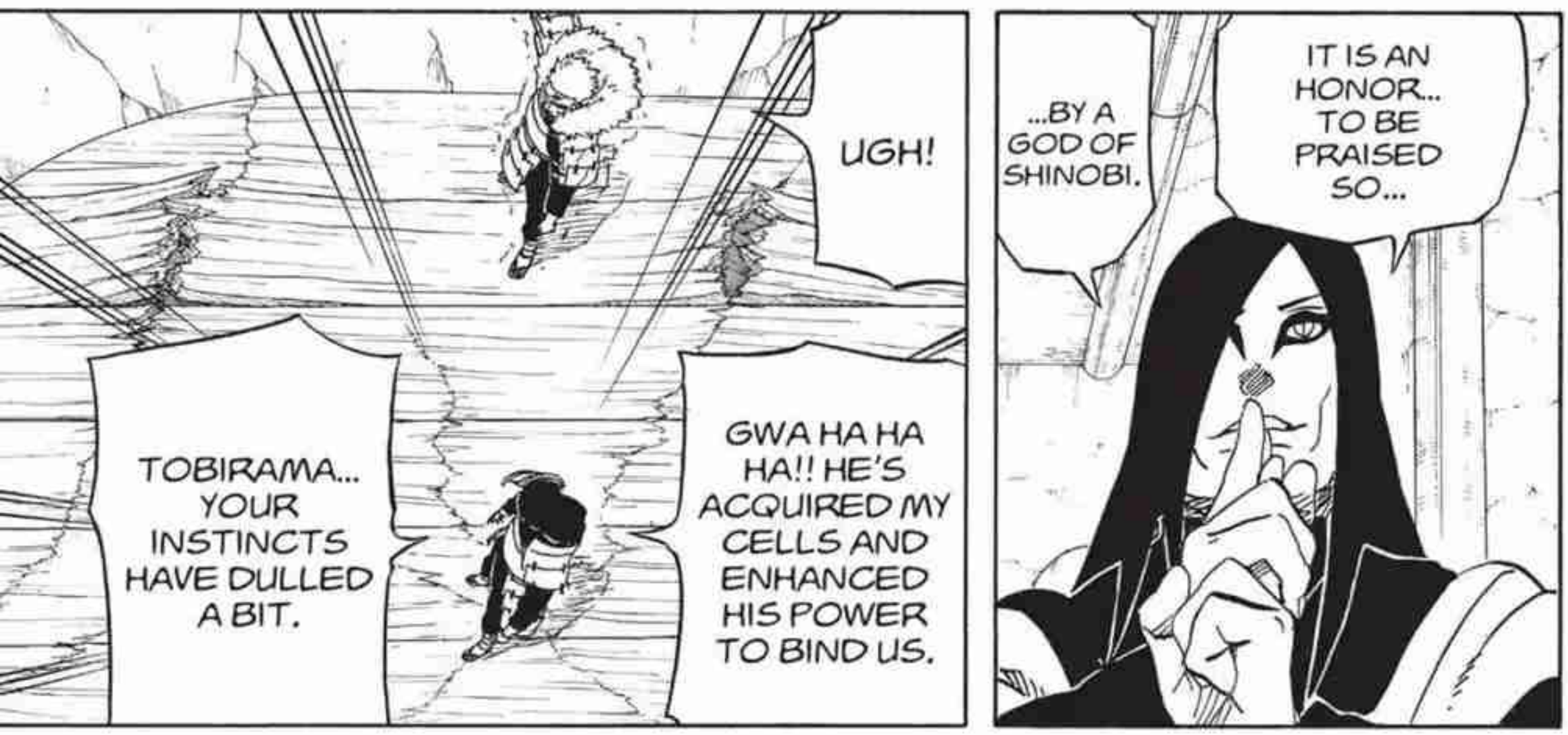
!

!!

QUIN

QUIN

QUIN


UGH!
TOBIRAMA... YOUR INSTINCTS HAVE DULLED A BIT.
GWA HA HA HA!! HE'S ACQUIRED MY CELLS AND ENHANCED HIS POWER TO BIND US.
...BY A GOD OF SHINOBI.
IT IS AN HONOR... TO BE PRAISED SO...

I'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO LET DOWN MY GUARD...
HE COULD UNDO MY BINDING AT ANY TIME...
FIRST HOKAGE HASHIRAMA... HE'S DIFFERENT...

MOST OF HIS BODY IS COMPOSED OF MY BROTHER'S CELLS...
MM... NOW THAT I TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...

NOW THEN...
...

I SHALL PRIORITIZE UNDOING THE ILL FEELINGS THAT ARE BINDING THIS CHILD.
OROCHIMARU, IS IT? DO NOT FRET.

BUT I DO KNOW THAT IF WE IGNORE HIM NOW...

...HE WILL DEFINITELY BECOME THE NEXT MADARA.

I DO NOT KNOW WHICH WAY...

...THIS UCHIHA CHILD WILL SWING AFTER LISTENING TO ME...

TH
IN ORDER TO TELL YOU ABOUT VILLAGE AND SHINOBI...
TA
K

GRRR
RRRR...
USH
SHKE
FW
WOOD DRAGON JUTSU!!
P

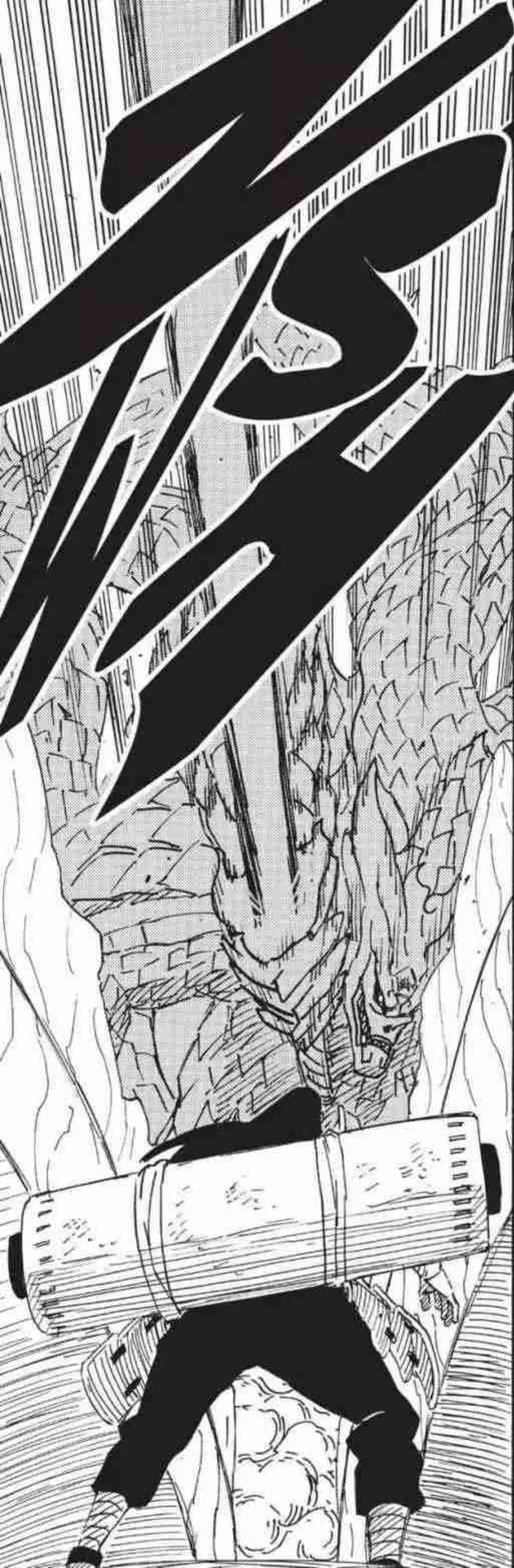
RRRRRRAWR
LLLR
HA
HA

OSH
ZWWWW...
WOOD STYLE! WOOD GOLEM JUTSU!!
ZWW
ZP
ONA
TC
KRAK
...FIRST I MUST SPEAK OF UCHIHA AND SENJU.

Number 621: Hashirama and Madara

GGGG

WOOD STYLE, WOOD EXPULSION JUTSU, WAS IT?
PERFECT FOR TAKING ON DIFFICULT BEASTS...
ZZW
WW



G-G-G-

JUD...
KL
OP

HE WRAPPED HIS SUSANO'O AROUND THE BIJU LIKE ARMOR!
UNH!

YOU CRAFTY FOX!
MADARA...

FWP

WOOD STYLE! LAUGHING BUDDHA JUTSU!!

FWP

I CAN READ YOUR SWORD SWINGS!

THWAP

ZW

...!

ZIP

ZIP

ZIP

ZIP

DFF
FSH
DFF
DFF
DFF
DFF

ZOSH
ZOSH
ZOSH
ZOSH
ZOSH
ZOSH
ZLASH

TMP
TMP

AT THIS RATE, THE LAND WILL BE COMPLETELY OBLITERATED... IT'S BEST TO MOVE THIS TO THE SEASHORE!
MM!

GI GI GI GI
UGH...

THD- THD- THD- THD-

YOU'RE NOT GET-TING AWAY!!

HSOOSH

IS RUNNING AROUND ALL YOU'VE GOT UP YOUR SLEEVE, HASHIRAMA ?!
KWE

KRAK

JAB

!
BAM
SUMMONING...
AAA
ZSH
NOW WHAT ?!
THERE! TRY GRABBING THAT!

ZK-ZK-ZK-ZK-ZK

...FIVE-LAYER RASHOMON!!!

GG-G-GG

SPLOOOSH...

ALL THE WAY TO THE OTHER SHORE...?

HASHIRAMA... IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE FOUGHT EACH OTHER ALL-OUT...
YOU CAN SEE THAT I HAVE CHANGED, EH...

KLAP

BOOM

THIS FIGHT... WILL ONLY HURT VILLAGE AND SHINOBI!

NOTHING WILL COME OF US BATTLING EACH OTHER...

BILLO

TO ALL WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED UP TILL NOW, MADARA?!!

YOU'RE GOING TO LAY WASTE TO EVERY-THING?!

...

YOU... KNOW NOTHING OF...

...

IT IS DISRESPECT TOWARDS OUR BROTHERS... AND OUR COMRADES!!

I'M SAYING WE ARE *FRIENDS*...

NO!!

...KILL ME AT ANY TIME?

ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT YOU *COULD*...

I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO KILL YOU...!

I'VE...

...ALREADY REACHED IT!!

G'G'

...

THEN SO BE IT...

FSH

GRRRAWR

WOOD STYLE...

SHKEEN

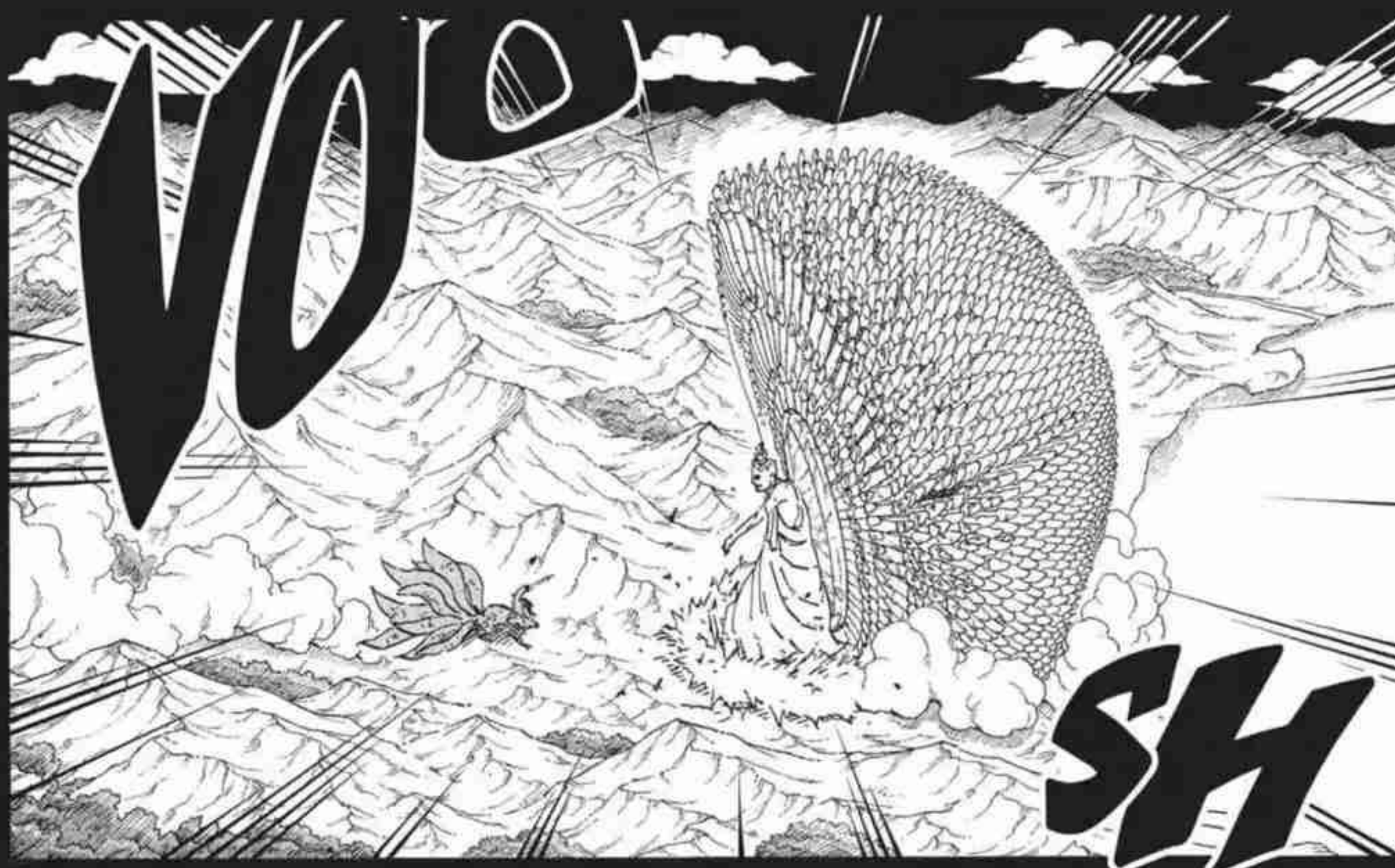
SAGE ART...

SHOOO...

...SHINSU SENJU, VERITABLE 1000-ARMED KAN'ON!!!
DOSHA

COME, HASHI-RAMA!!

HERE I GO, MADARA!!

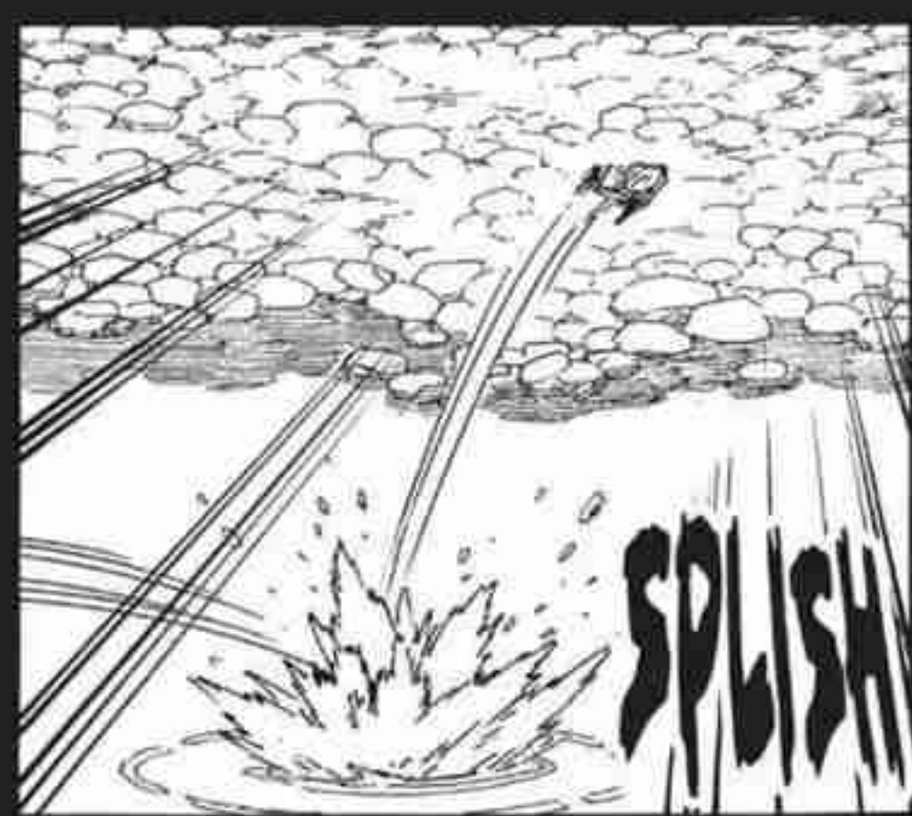


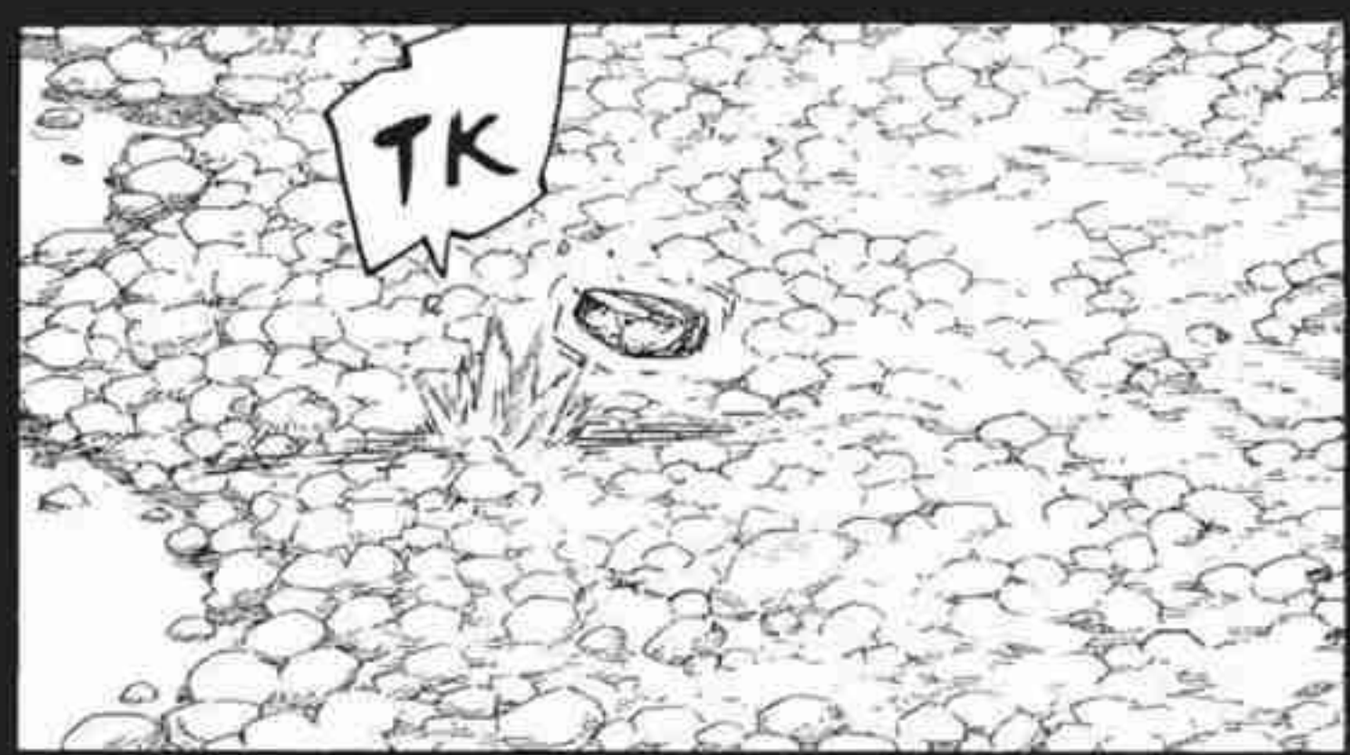
SPL ASH

SPLISH SPLISH

THIS TIME, I'LL REACH THE OTHER SIDE FOR SURE...

PLIK





THAT'S THE TRICK.

AIM IT A LITTLE HIGHER THAN YOU'D EXPECT.

...

FIRST NAME'S HASHIRAMA...

BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU MY FAMILY NAME...

SHUP

HEY, I ASKED YOU WHO YOU ARE!!

Number 622: It Reached

JUST AS I THOUGHT... SHURIKEN JUTSU!

THE WAY HE THROWS...

SWSH

WATCH ME! I'M GONNA MAKE IT THIS TIME!!

HASHI-RAMA, EH...

FSH

...

PLOP...

SPLASH SPLASH SPLASH

I'M SO SENSITIVE THAT MY PEE STOPS FLOWIN' IF SOMEONE STEPS BEHIND ME!!!

YO!! YA STOOD RIGHT BEHIND ME ON PURPOSE TO DISTRACT ME, EH!!!

!!

TWITCH

ZOT

SORRY... I WAS JUST MAKIN' EXCUSES...

...

ER.. NO NEED TO GET SO DEPRESSED ABOUT IT...

GLOOM

S-SORRY ...

...

FSH

FSH

FSH

A-HA HA HA!!

WANT ME TO SKIP **YOU** INSTEAD, EH?!!

BUT I'M CLEARLY BETTER AT STONE-SKIPPING THAN YOU!

YO, I CAN'T TELL IF YOU'RE A NICE GUY OR A NASTY GUY, EH!!!

WELL, I HAD NO IDEA...

...YOU HAD SUCH AN OBNOXIOUS SELF-DIAGNOSED NEUROSIS ...

JUST... I HOPE I REACH THE OPPOSITE SHORE ...

MUMBLE

SO IN REPARATION, I'M PREPARED TO BE THROWN INTO THE RIVER... NOW GO AHEAD...

ARE **YOU** AWARE OF YOUR OWN OBNOXIOUS NEUROSIS?!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU MAD...

S-SORRY ...

DOOOM

NO, WAIT A SECOND !!!

IAKKK

CLAMP

WELL THEN...

TURN

YOU'RE A REAL EYESORE!! GET LOST!!

!

BOB

BOB

!

WHY DON'T YOU BE CLEAR?

WHICH IS IT?

SWOOO...
THAT'S--!
!
SPLACH
SPLACH
SPLACH
YOU'RE A SHINOBI?
YOU...
I GOTTA GO...
THIS IS A HAGOROMO CLAN CREST...!
GO HOME.
THIS PLACE WILL BECOME A BATTLEFIELD SOON TOO.

NOT PROFFERING ONE'S FAMILY NAME TO A STRANGER...
FIRST NAME'S MADARA.

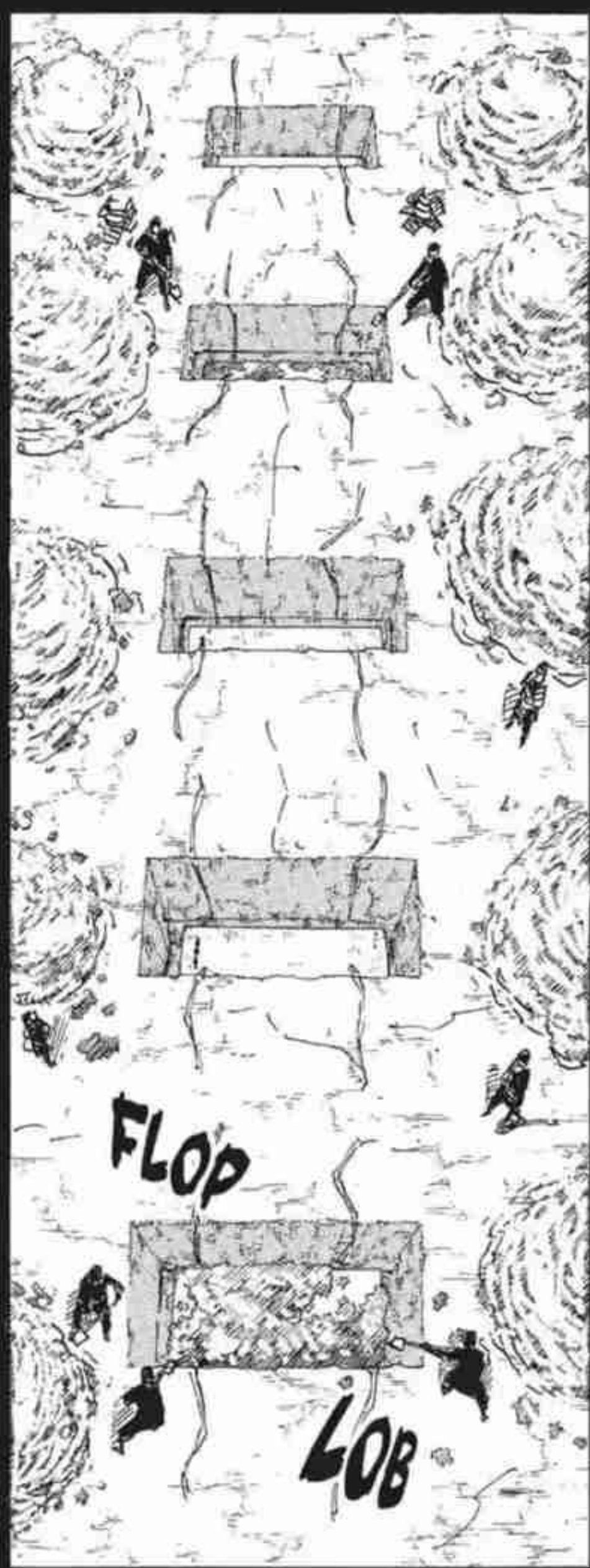
UH...
LATER...
SPLACH
TMP

...IS SHINOBI LAW.
SO YOU ARE A SHINOBI ALSO.

I FELT I KNEW WHY HE'D COME DOWN TO THE RIVER TOO.

OUR PERSONALITIES DIFFERED... AND YET I SENSED A MYSTERIOUS KINSHIP WITH HIM...

CHUMP
CHUMP


FLOP
LOB

THK
FLOP
FLOP

KAWARAMA...

SHINOBI ARE BORN INTO THIS WORLD TO FIGHT AND DIE IN BATTLE!

IF YOU'RE A SHINOBI, DO NOT GRIEVE!

UNH, UNH...

UGH!!

HE FOUGHT AND DIED A ***FULL-FLEDGED*** SHINOBI!

HE WAS ***NOT*** A CHILD!!

I WILL **NOT** ALLOW KAWARAMA TO BE DISRESPECTED!!

THMP

...

...

ELDER BROTHER HASHIRAMA... YOU OKAY...?

SHUP

C'MON, YOU ***KNOW*** WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DEFY FATHER...

...

FULL-FLEDGED SHINOBI, MY BUTT!!

SENJU, THE CLAN OF LOVE?! YEAH, RIGHT!!

...EITHER OF YOU TO DIE IN VAIN, ITAMA, TOBIRAMA...!

I DON'T WANT...

THAT IS HOW WE HONOR OUR OPPONENTS.

EVEN AN INFANT, IF WIELDING A WEAPON, IS DEEMED AN ENEMY!

I KNOW WE'RE DOING THE ***SAME THING*** TO THE UCHIHA CLAN!!

IT'S JUST ADULTS GANGING UP ON AND DRIVING KIDS TO THEIR DEATHS!!

IT'S SO DANGEROUS YOU CAN'T EVEN MENTION YOUR FAMILY NAME!

WE KILL AND ARE KILLED SO MUCH, YOU CAN'T EVEN KEEP TRACK OF ALL THE GRUDGES NOW!

YOU HAVE TO DIE TO BE FULL-FLEDGED?!

IRK

AND TO RAISE ONE'S CHILD TO BECOME FULL-FLEDGED...

...IS A PARENT'S LOVE!

WHIRL
KIDS LIKE YOU ARE CALLED BRATS!!

I SWEAR, THIS SHINOBI WORLD IS *TOTALLY* MESSED UP!!

GO COOL YOUR HEAD, HASHIRAMA.
...

!
SHUP
FATHER... ELDER BROTHER IS FEELING BLUE TODAY TOO.
SO PLEASE FORGIVE HIM...

...

IF THEY WANNA GET RID OF WARS...

...THEY OUGHT TO JUST SIGN PACTS AND STOP FIGHTING.

ADULTS ARE STUPID.

THE ERA OF WARRING STATES... WHEN THE AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF BOTH SHINOBI AND CITIZENS WAS AROUND 30 YEARS...

WHAT'S A TRUE ALLIANCE...?

HM?

AND WHAT WAS KEEPING THAT SO LOW...

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

JUDDER...

JUDDER...

PA

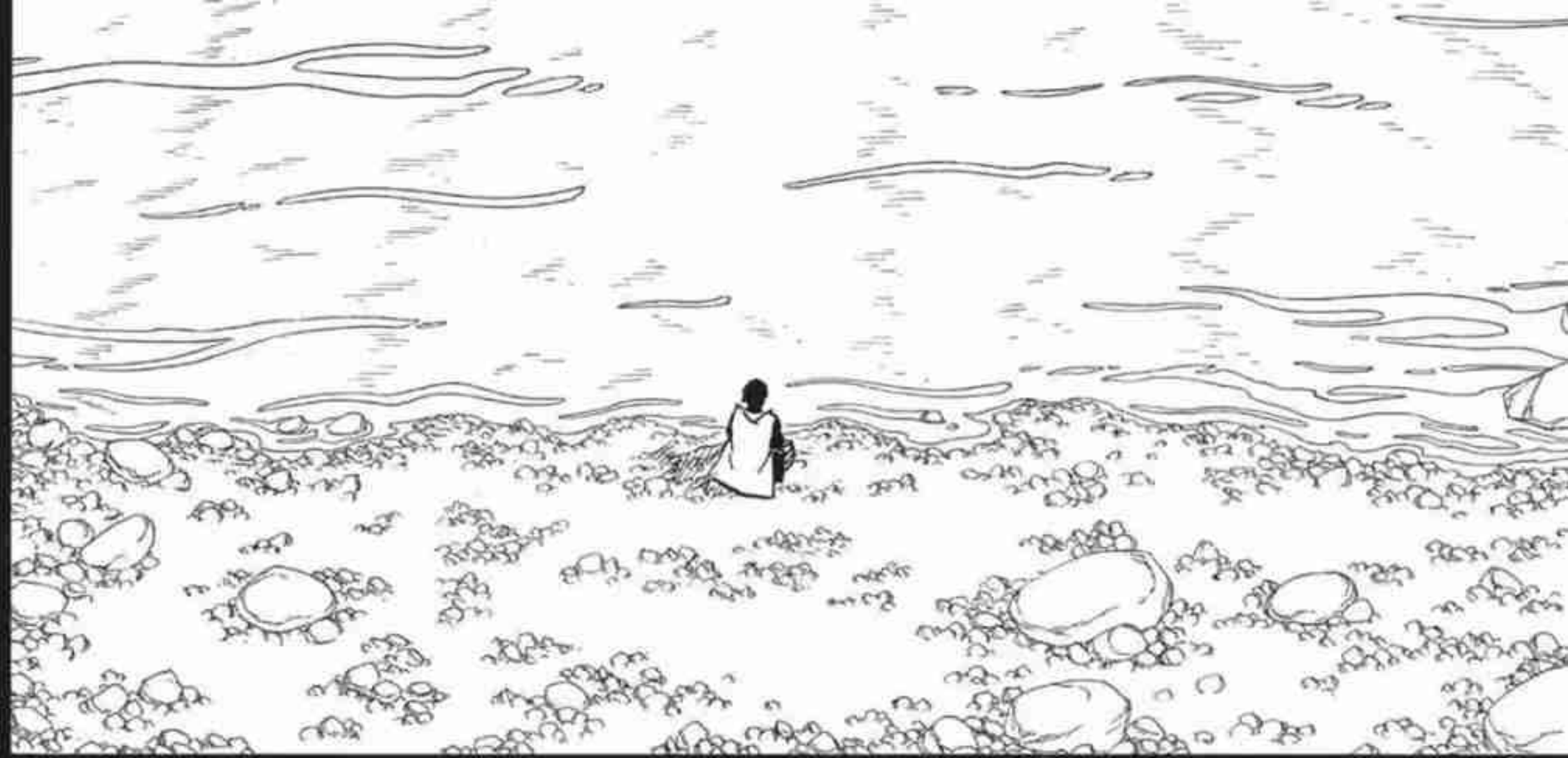
!!

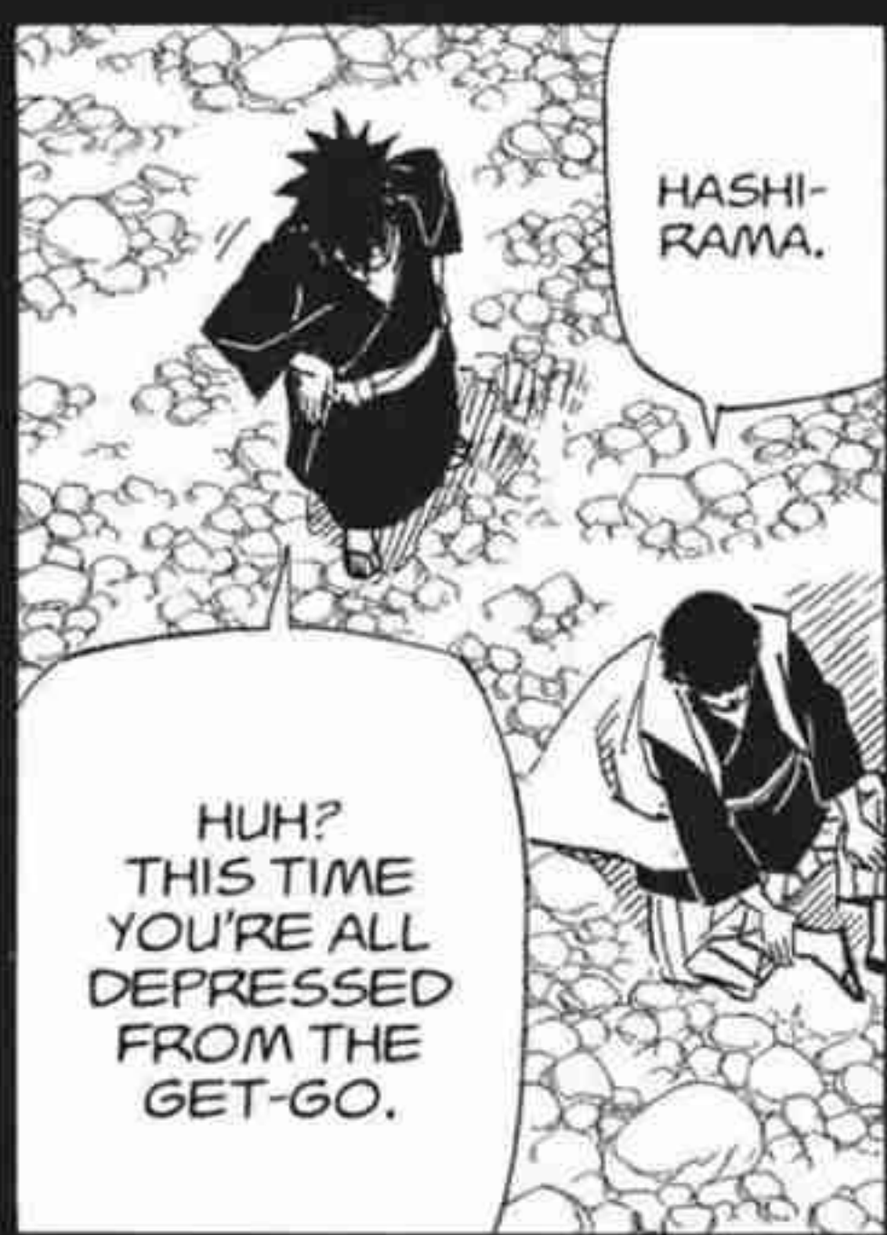
!!

K

...WAS THE DEATHS OF MANY YOUNG CHILDREN.

ITAMA !!




HASHI-RAMA.
HUH? THIS TIME YOU'RE ALL DEPRESSED FROM THE GET-GO.

UM...
HEY... LONG TIME NO SEE...!
...

HEY, STOP DRAGGING THIS OUT... I PROMISE I'LL LISTEN...!
NO... THERE ISN'T ANY-THING ...
C'MON... JUST SPILL IT...
IT'S NOTH-ING ...
LIAR... WANNA TALK TO ME? I'LL LISTEN.
WHAT HAPPENED ?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN... I'M FINE!
I SWEAR THERE ISN'T ANYTHING ...!

MY LITTLE BROTHER DIED...

OUT WITH IT!!!

IT REALLY ISN'T MUCH...

...CUZ I FEEL LIKE ALL THE HAZINESS IN MY HEART GETS WASHED AWAY AS I STARE AT THE WATER...

I COME HERE TO THE RIVER...

...!

I'M... ONE OF FIVE KIDS...

FSH...

...HAVE ANY SIBLINGS?

DO YOU...

...

COULD IT BE THAT WAY FOR YOU TOO?

MADARA, RIGHT...?

...

POP

PLIK

WELL, THERE USED TO BE FIVE OF US.

WE NEVER KNOW WHEN WE MIGHT DIE.

WE'RE SHINOBI.

SHUP

...DEEP INTO SOMEONE'S BELLY, DOWN TO THEIR GUTS.

CUZ ONE CAN'T REALLY LOOK...

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...

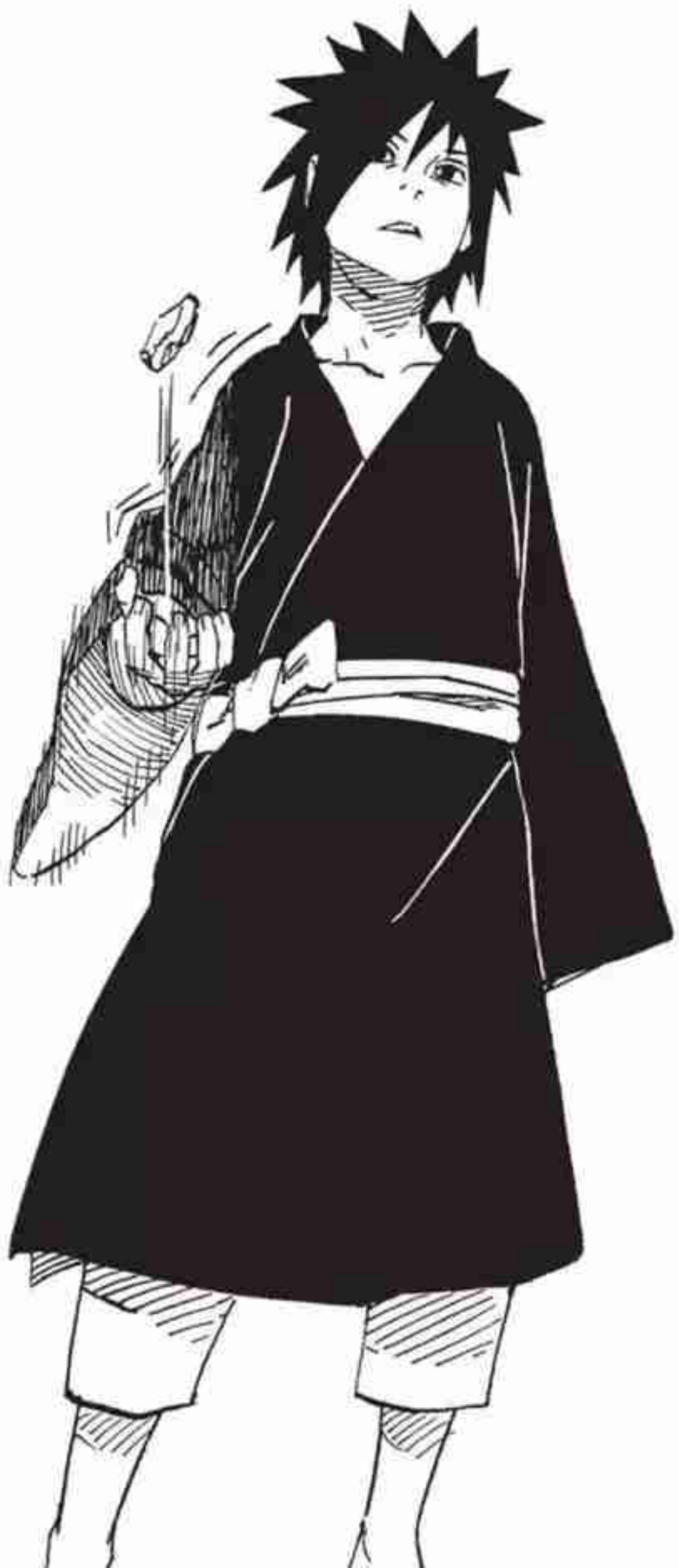
FSH!

...IT'D BE WHERE BOTH SIDES REVEALED THEIR BELLIES, HID NOTHING FROM EACH OTHER...

...AND POURED EACH OTHER DRINKS AND DRANK TOGETHER LIKE BROTHERS.

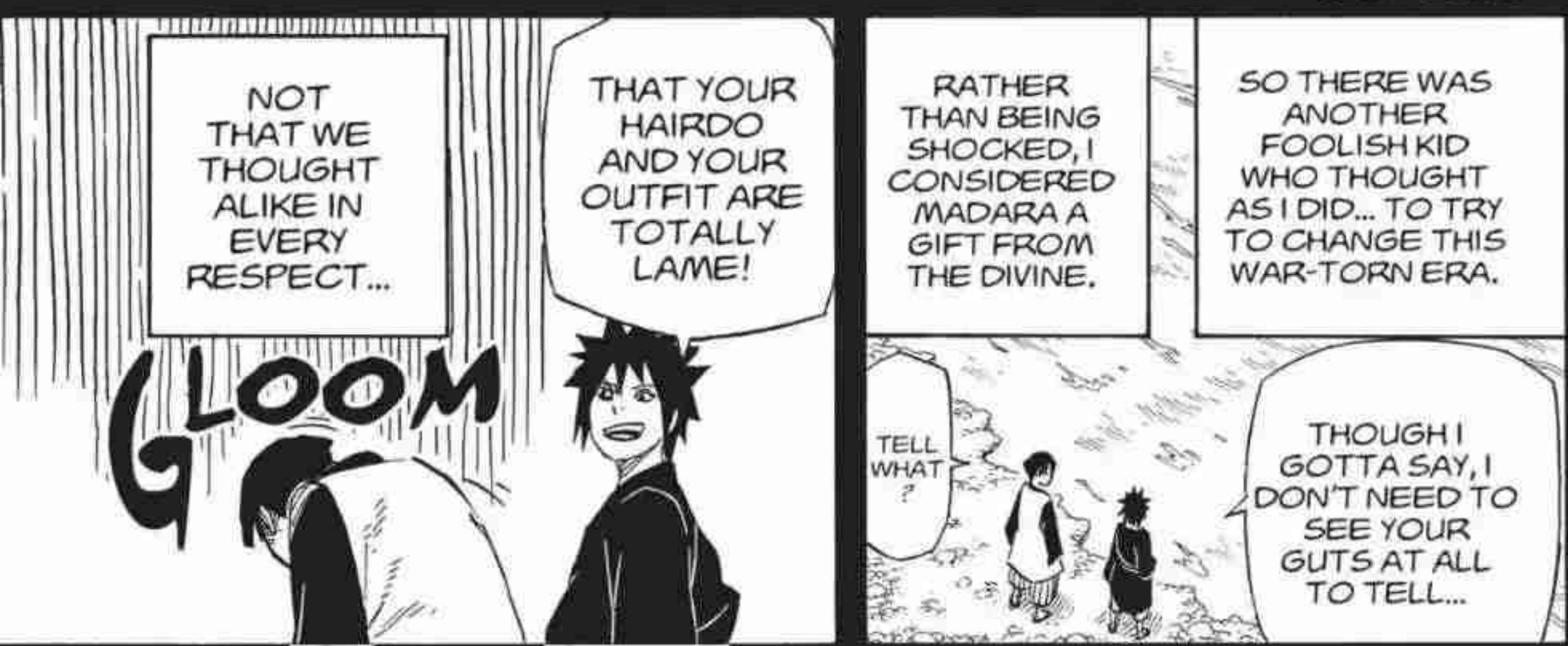
IF THERE ***WERE*** TO BE A WAY WHERE NEITHER SIDE HAD TO DIE...

...TO SHOW OUR GUTS TO EACH OTHER?
IS IT NOT POSSIBLE ...
SO ONE OR BOTH MIGHT ACTUALLY BE SEETHING INSIDE...
SWSH
TK
BUT I'M ALWAYS PUTTING OUT A LITTLE WISH WHEN I'M HERE.
HOPING TO FIND THE WAY.
I DUNNO...
SPLASH
SPLASH
IT'S NOT JUST YOURS. MINE ALSO...
...REACHED THE OTHER SIDE.
LOOK AT THAT.
SEEMS LIKE THERE FINALLY WILL BE A WAY, THIS TIME.



FSH...

Number 623: View



POKT

NO... NOT QUITE A TIE...
YOUR TAIJUTSU TECHNIQUES... THEY'RE PRETTY GOOD!
I'M STILL STANDING.
NICE JOB PULLING A DRAW AGAINST ME.

THUD
SKREE

THUD
KLOMP
OWW !!
!!
YOU WERE SAYING?

DNK

WHAT?

THE FIRST STEPS ARE FOR US TO NOT GIVE UP ON OUR IDEALS, AND TO GET A LOT STRONGER.

WEAK PUPS BARKING WON'T CHANGE A THING.

WE'VE GOT TO HAVE A VISION FOR THE FUTURE...

GULP GULP

BUT THE QUESTION IS, HOW DO WE CHANGE THINGS CONCRETELY?

TMP

!

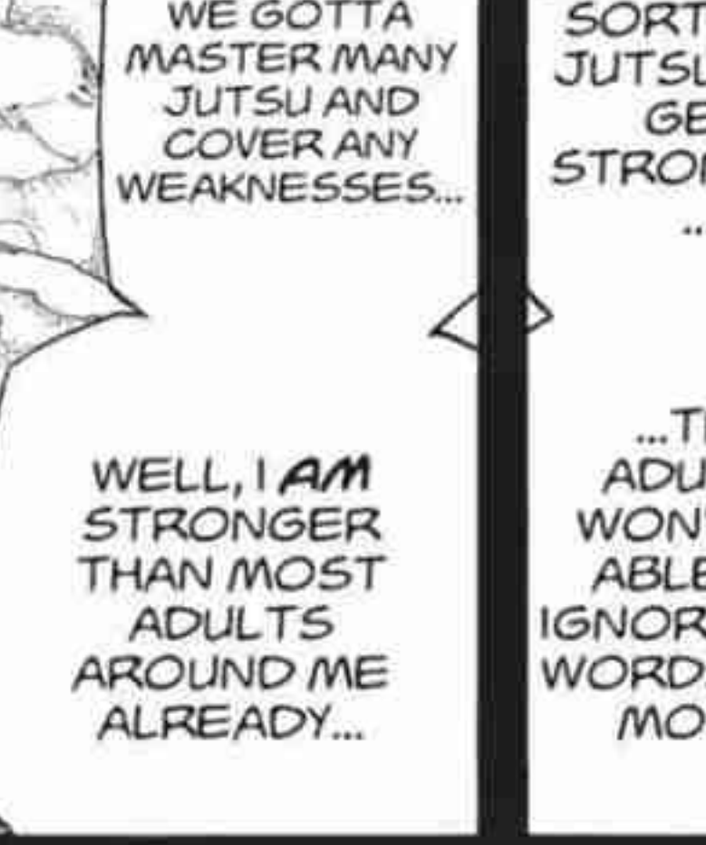
WE GOTTA MASTER MANY JUTSU AND COVER ANY WEAKNESSES...

WELL, I *AM* STRONGER THAN MOST ADULTS AROUND ME ALREADY...

IF WE MASTER ALL SORTS OF JUTSU AND GET STRONGER ...

...THE ADULTS WON'T BE ABLE TO IGNORE OUR WORDS ANY-MORE.

RIGHT...



I TOLD YA NOT TO STAND BEHIND ME!!!

IT REALLY DOES STOP FLOWING...!

HEY, MADARA... I THOUGHT UP AN AWESOME JUTSU!

HOW ABOUT I THROW YA INTO THE RIVER I JUST PISSED INTO, EH?!

EVERY TIME WE MET UP, WE GOT CLOSER.

FOUND A WEAK-NESS...!

ER... I CAN'T VISUALIZE IT AT ALL...

FWP

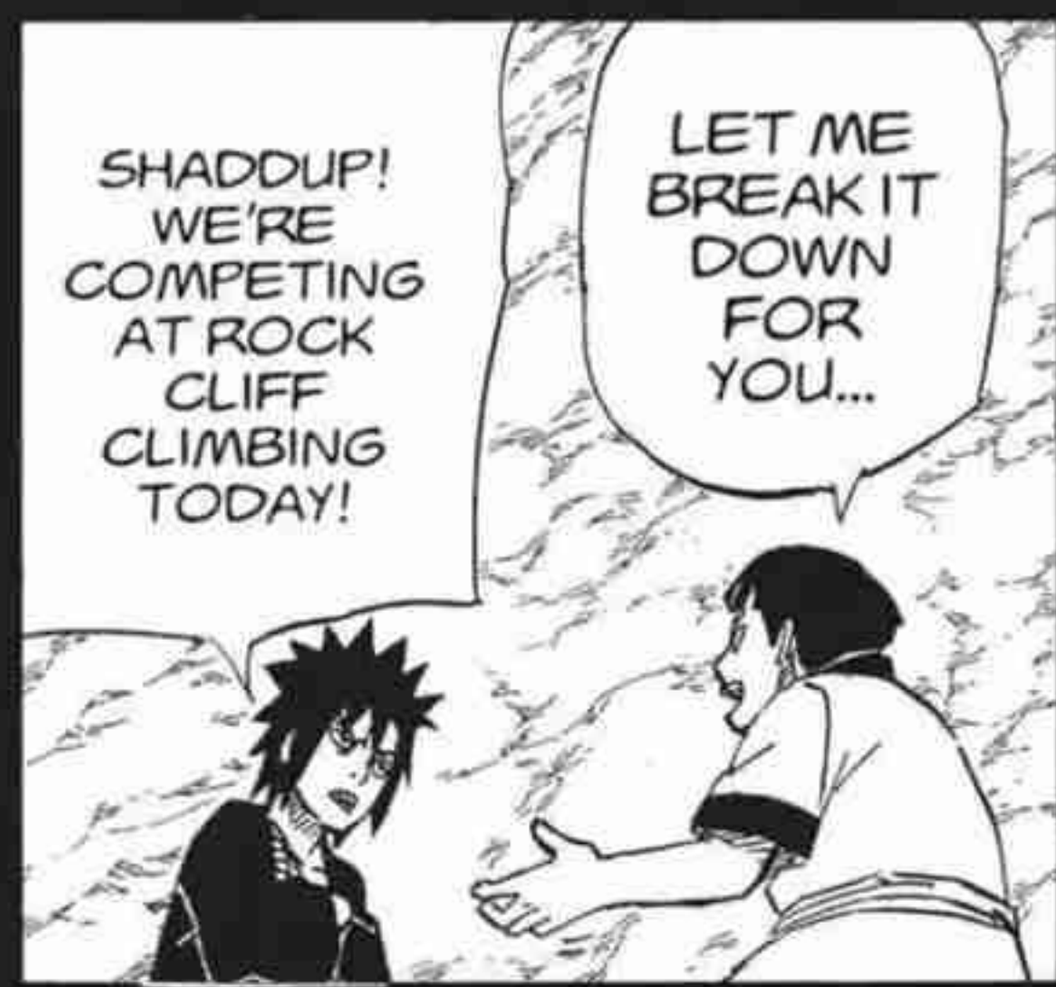
THE ULTIMATE TAIJUTSU, A SUPER-FIRE STYLE GENJUTSU-SLICE GIANT SHURIKEN TWO-STEP DROP!!!

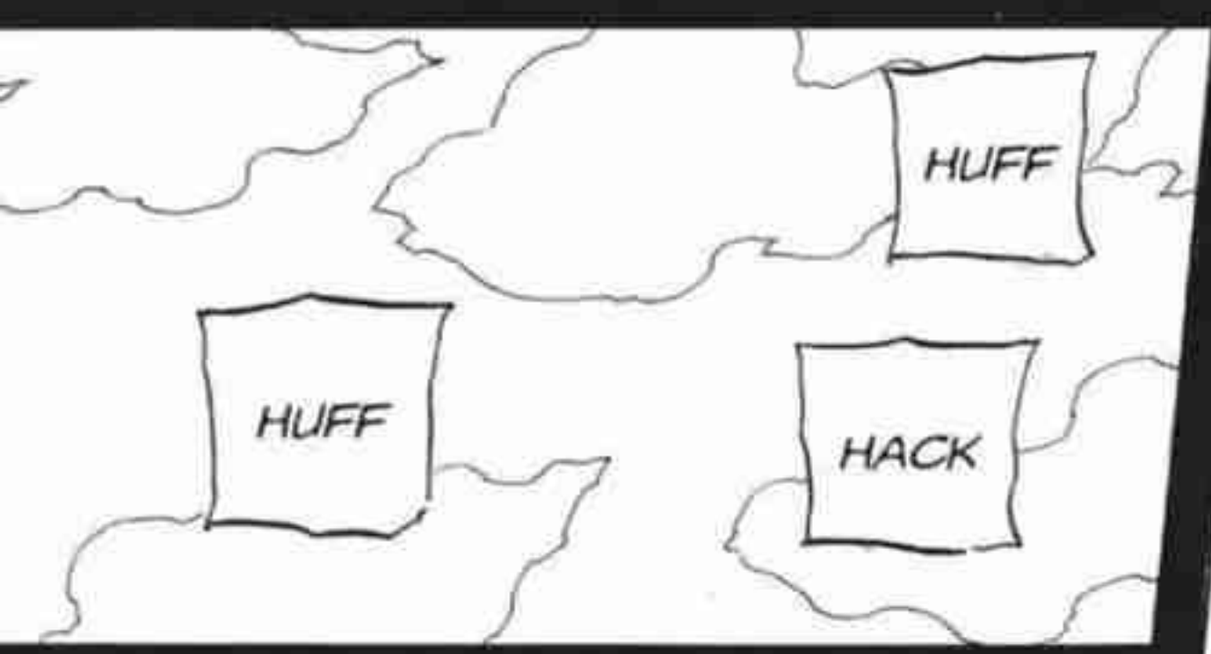
WHAT IS IT?

HUH...

LET'S MASTER IT TOGETHER!!

QUIT GETTING DEPRESSED SO EASILY!
THAT'S YOUR WEAK-NESS!
GLOOM


SHADDUP! WE'RE COMPETING AT ROCK CLIFF CLIMBING TODAY!
LET ME BREAK IT DOWN FOR YOU...


HUFF
HUFF
HACK

HACK
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
YOU HAD A HEAD START!
OF COURSE YOU DID...
...I... WIN...

A-HA HA HA, SEE YOU AT THE TOP!!
TIP
TWP
TWP
TWP
TWP
YOU WERE JUST PRETENDING TO BE BLUE!
HEY! BASTARD!
!!

HUFF

HUFF

FOR I'VE GOT SHA--
OF COURSE I AM!
WHAT THE?
YOU SEEM REAL PROUD OF YOUR EYES, EH.

IN TERMS OF EYESIGHT, I'M PRETTY SURE YOU CAN'T BEAT ME.
YEAH... YOU CAN SEE REALLY FAR.
WHAT A SWEEPING VIEW OF THE FOREST.
WANNA CHALLENGE ME?

WHAT'S UP?
...

...
...?

...!

I COULDN'T EVEN PROTECT THEM...

SO I OUGHTN'T...

OR ELSE, MY SIBS WOULDN'T BE DEAD.

ER... NEVER MIND, I GUESS IT AIN'T ALL THAT.

HUH? YOU'RE BEING AWFUL CANDID FOR ONCE.

OUGHTN'T ...

DIG...

I DO... ONE YOUNGER BROTHER.

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SIBLINGS LEFT?

...

...
I SWEAR I'LL PROTECT HIM, NO MATTER WHAT!!
AND MAKE IT SO KIDS WON'T HAVE TO KILL EACH OTHER!!
LET'S BUILD OUR SETTLEMENT HERE!!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?!
HEH... YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH THE ONLY ONE SPOUTING SUCH NONSENSE!
HAVE SUPERIORS WHO CAN PROPERLY ASSIGN RANKS TO COMMISSIONS!
ASSIGN MISSIONS THAT FIT AN INDIVIDUAL'S ABILITIES AND STRENGTH!
WE'LL CREATE A SCHOOL WHERE KIDS CAN TRAIN AND GROW UP STRONGER!
IT'LL BE A PLACE WHERE KIDS DON'T HAVE TO BE SENT INTO HARSH BATTLE-FRONTS!

I MADE A RESOLUTION THAT DAY.

TO ENDURE FOR THE SAKE OF MY VISION.

THAT WAS WHERE THE VILLAGE OF KONOHA WOULD EVENTUALLY STAND.

SPLISH

SPLISH

SNATCH

THAT'S A GOOD STONE FOR SKIPPING.

WE BOTH REACH THE OTHER SIDE NOW.

I'LL LET YOU HOLD ON TO IT UNTIL THE NEXT TIME WE MEET!

WE GOTTA TALK.
ELDER BROTHER ...

!

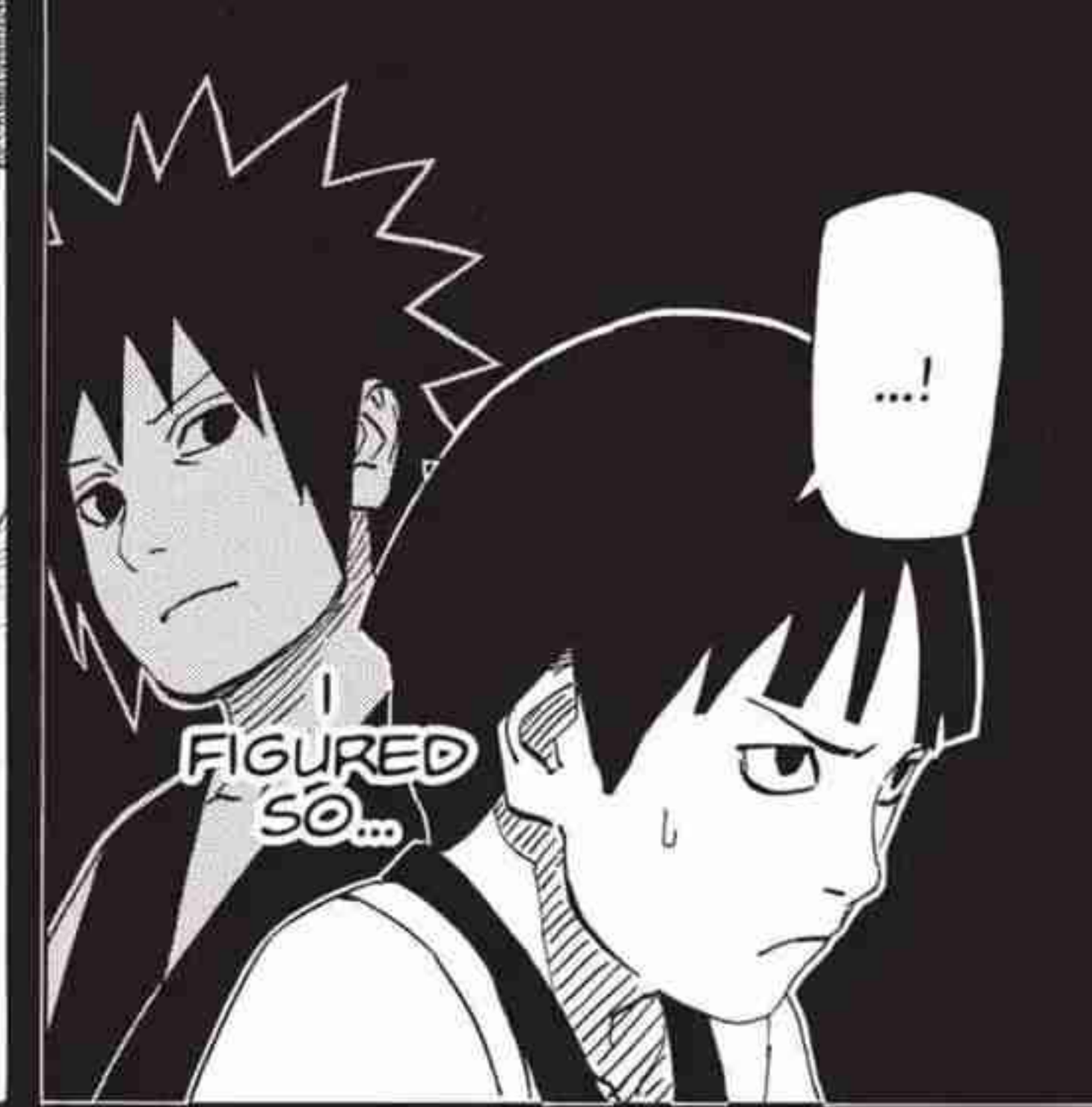
SH UP

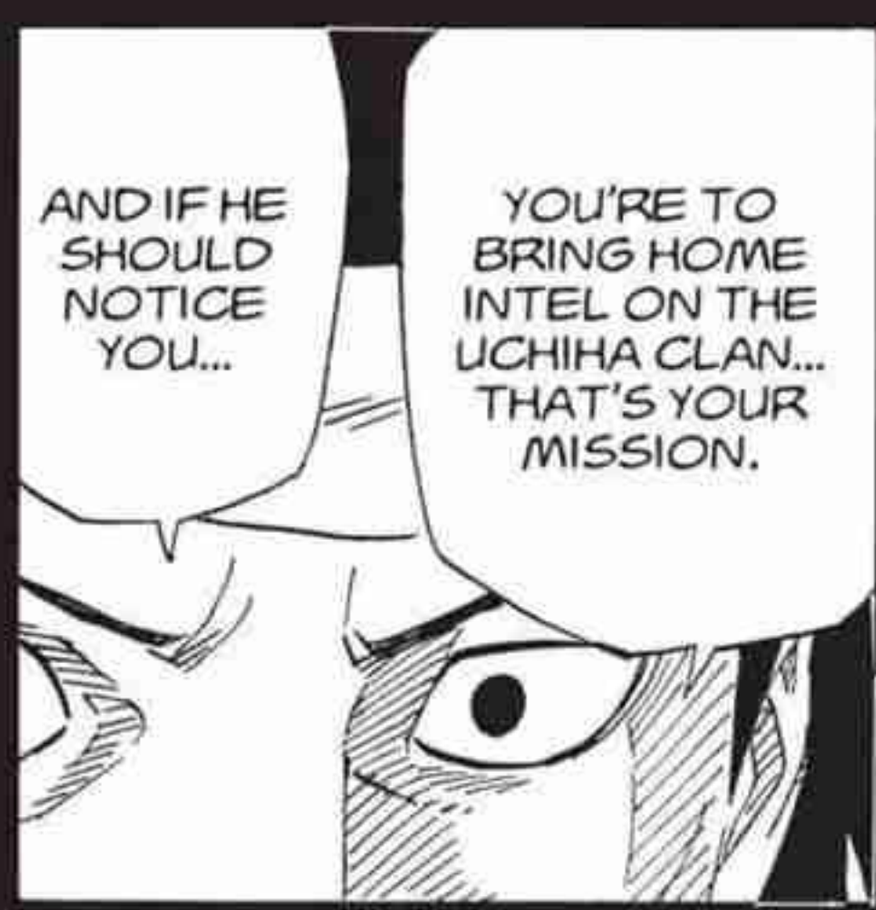
I'VE BEEN TAILING YOU ON FATHER'S ORDERS, ELDER BROTHER... I'M BETTER AT SENSORY THAN YOU.
HOW'D YOU...
THIS LAD YOU'VE BEEN MEETING UP WITH...
YOU'VE BEEN GOING OUT A LOT RECENTLY, SO I WONDERED WHAT WAS UP...

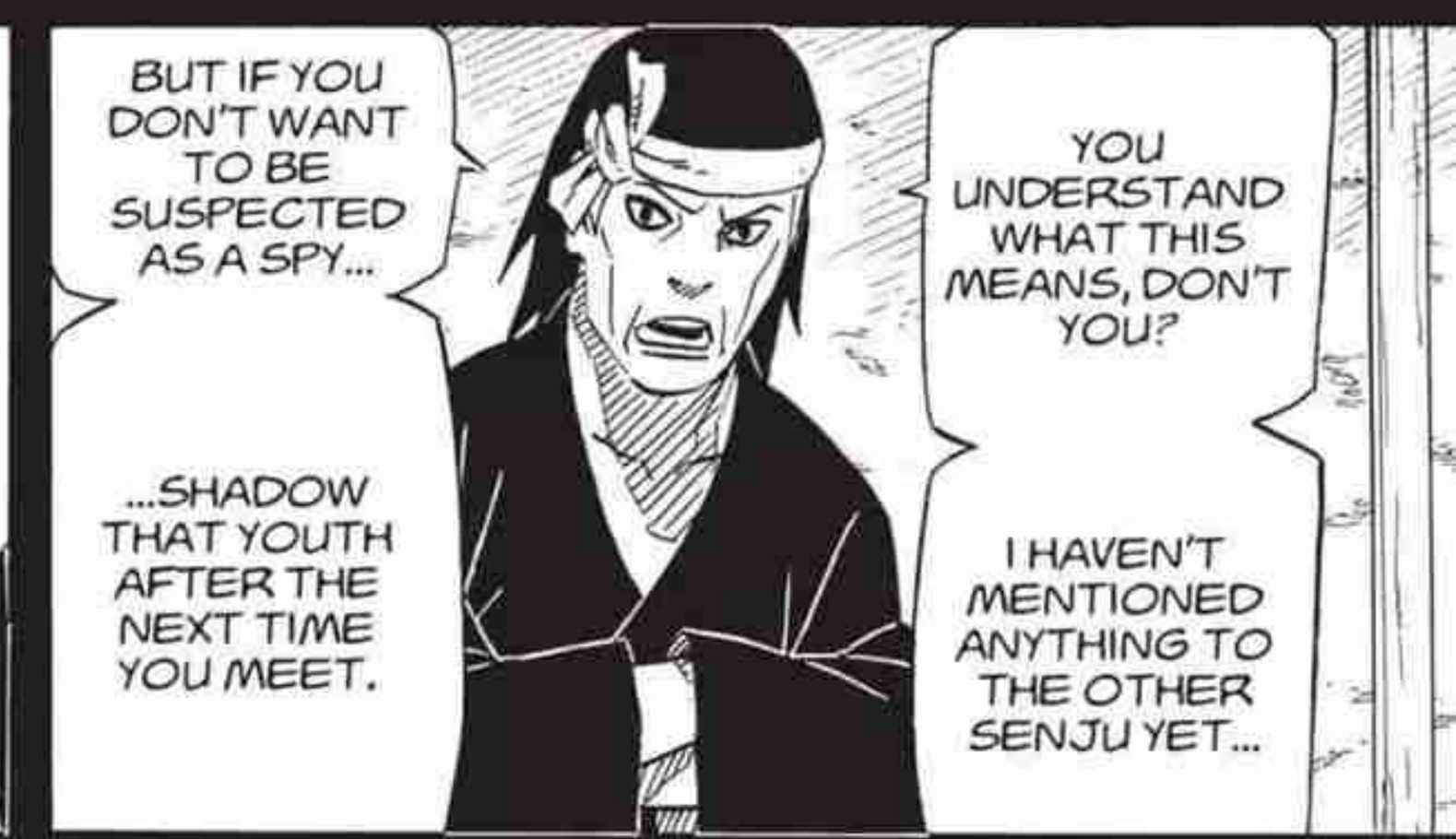
HE APPEARS TO BE A BORN SHINOBI GENIUS.
AND HE'S TAKEN DOWN EVEN CAPABLE ADULTS OF OUR CLAN.

HE'S OF THE UCHIHA CLAN.
I LOOKED INTO THAT YOUNG MAN.

DON'T TELL ME THE TWO OF YOU ALREADY KNEW EACH OTHER'S FAMILY NAMES?
GIVEN YOUR LACK OF OBVIOUS SURPRISE...
I DON'T THINK HE DOES EITHER...
NO... I TOTALLY DIDN'T KNOW.


...!
I FIGURED SO...


AND IF HE SHOULD NOTICE YOU...
YOU'RE TO BRING HOME INTEL ON THE UCHIHA CLAN... THAT'S YOUR MISSION.


BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE SUSPECTED AS A SPY...
...SHADOW THAT YOUTH AFTER THE NEXT TIME YOU MEET.
YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS, DON'T YOU?
I HAVEN'T MENTIONED ANYTHING TO THE OTHER SENJU YET...

A-ARE YOU SURE HE'S UCHIHA?

...KILL HIM.

DO NOT TRUST HIM.

IF HE'S FOUND OUT THAT YOU'RE SENJU... HE'LL PRETEND TO LET HIS GUARD DOWN IN ORDER TO STEAL INTEL ON US.

YES...

GOT THAT?!

JUST IN CASE, TOBIRAMA AND I WILL COME ALONG...

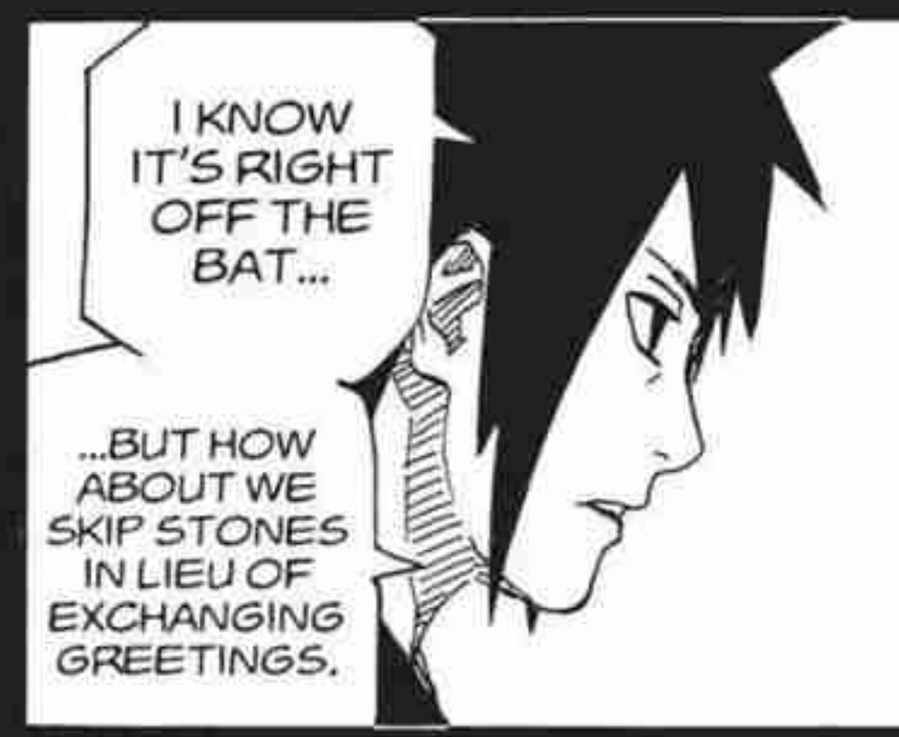
NO, HE'S NOT LIKE THAT...

IF HE TRICKS YOU, YOU'LL BE PUTTING EVERY SENJU IN DANGER!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S THINKING INSIDE HIS GUT!

FSH

YEAH...
FSH


I KNOW IT'S RIGHT OFF THE BAT...
...BUT HOW ABOUT WE SKIP STONES IN LIEU OF EXCHANGING GREETINGS.

SH

SSH

SPLASH

SPLASH

AND TOBIRAMA, I BELIEVE.

...SENJU BUTSUMA!

SEEMS WE'RE BOTH ON THE SAME PAGE...

!

TMP

UCHIHA TAJIMA!

INDEED...

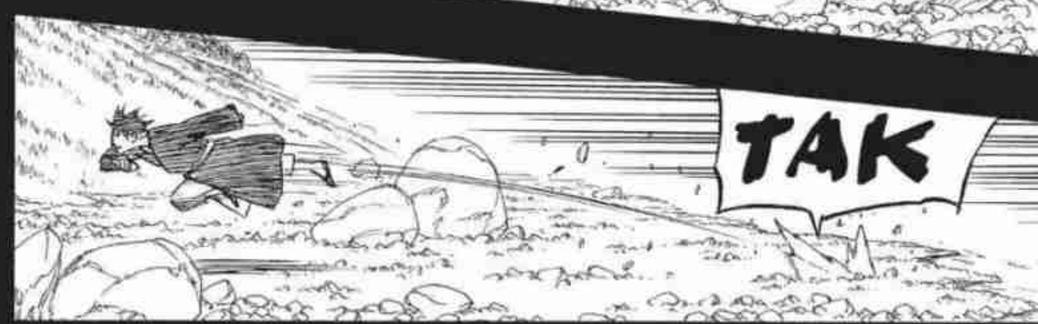
!

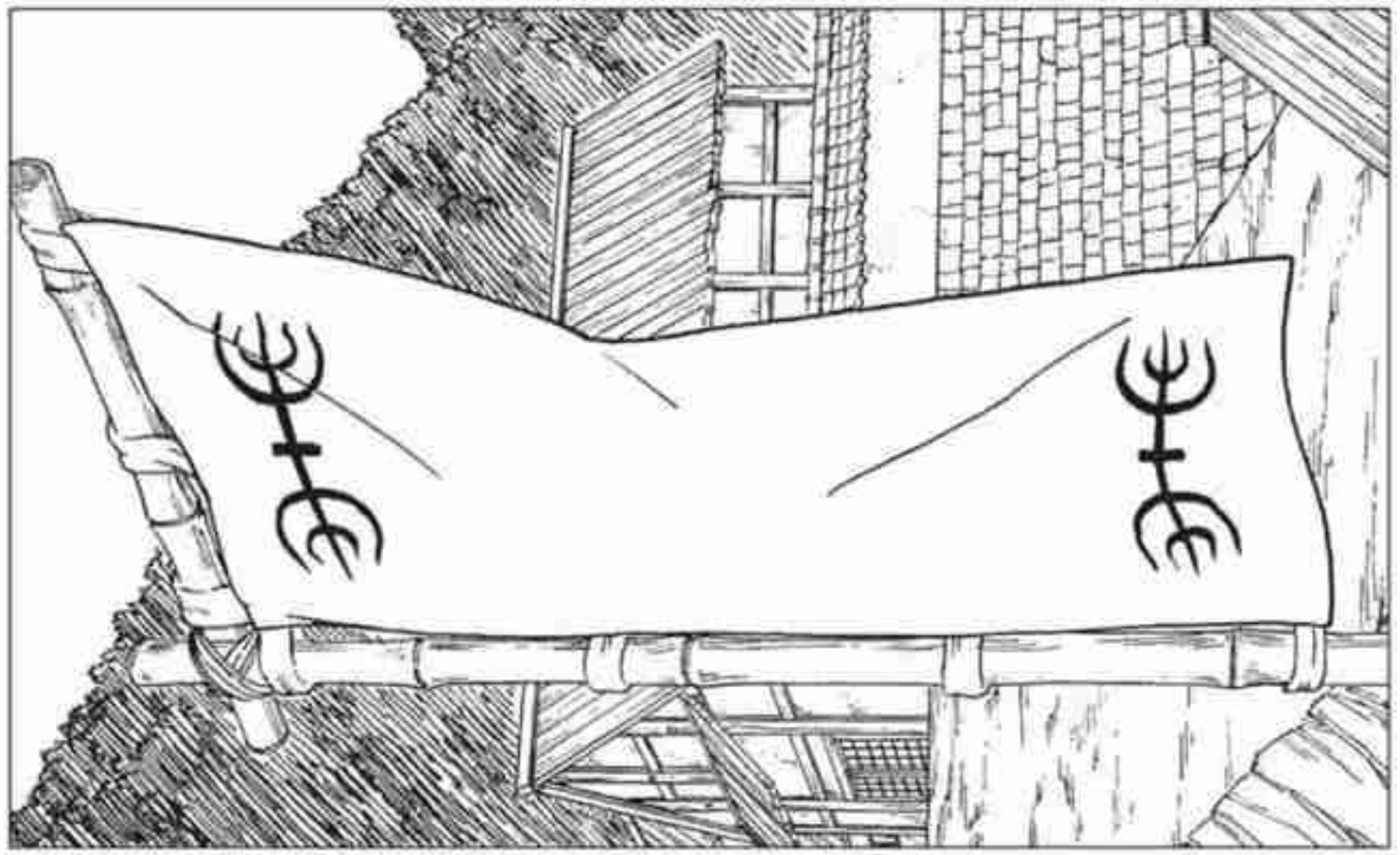
TMP

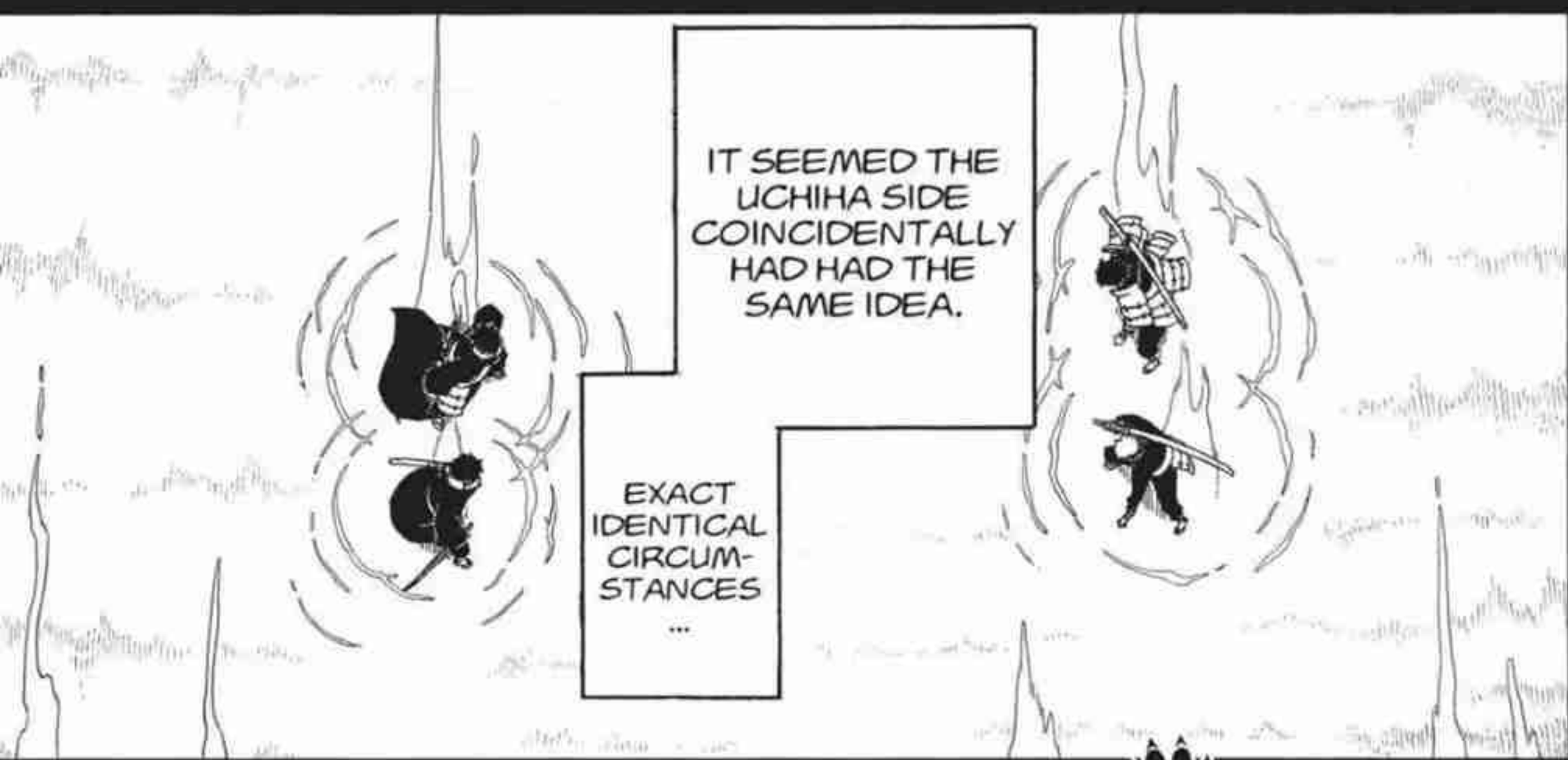
AND IZUNA, RIGHT?

*STONE: TRAP, SCRAM

*STONE: RUN







Number 624: Even

SHINOBI ARE TRAINED TO KEEP THEIR HEARTS IN CHECK ON THE BATTLEFIELD, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.

A SINGLE FLASH OF EMOTIONAL DISARRAY CAN LEAD TO VULNERABILITY... AND MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.

STOP IT!!

AND THE TWO ADULTS WERE WELL AWARE...

...IT WOULD LIKELY, NO MATTER HOW SLIGHT, UNBALANCE THEIR HEART.

...THAT IF THEIR OWN CHILD WERE KILLED BEFORE THEIR EYES...

...COULD LAND THE FIRST STRIKE WOULD DETERMINE THE OUTCOME.

MEANING THAT, WHICHEVER ONE...

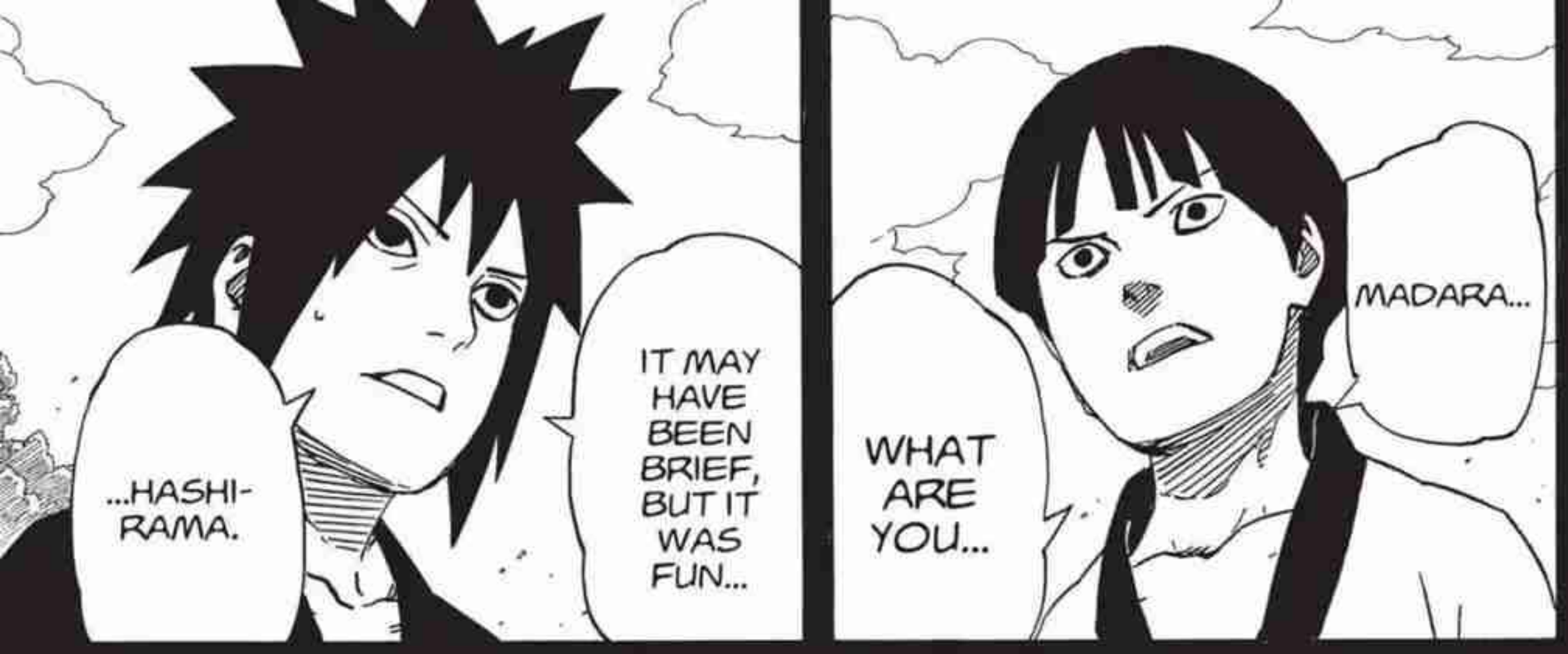
!!

!!

*TEXT: TRAP, SCRAM

*TEXT: RUN

...TO REACH THAT...
MAYBE IT JUST ISN'T POSSIBLE FOR US...
...
...
...PIPE DREAM OF OURS...
ピチャ
ピチャ


...HASHI-RAMA.
IT MAY HAVE BEEN BRIEF, BUT IT WAS FUN...
WHAT ARE YOU...
MADARA...

I SEE... QUITE IMPRESSIVE...
A STRONGER KID THAN YOU...?
THREE AGAINST THREE.
WELL, MADARA? CAN WE TAKE THEM?
IF WE FIGHT, WE'LL LOSE.
NO... HASHIRAMA IS STRONGER THAN ME.

YOU HAVEN'T ***REALLY*** GIVEN UP, HAVE YOU...?!

YOU'VE FINALLY GOTTEN TO THE SAME POINT I...

HEY, MADARA ...!

LATER...

SHUP...

LET'S GO.

MY BROTHERS WERE KILLED BY SENJU...

YOU ARE SENJU... I TRULY WISH IT WASN'T SO.

...***SENJU*** HASHIRAMA.

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL LIKELY BE ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

...THERE'S NO NEED TO SHOW OUR GUTS TO EACH OTHER.

THAT'S WHY...

SHARINGAN

FOR I AM... UCHIHA MADARA.

TO ERASE ME FROM HIS LIFE.

HE'D DECIDED TO COMPLETELY ERASE HIS FRIEND.

WE FOUGHT EACH OTHER DAY AFTER DAY...

AFTER THAT, WE BATTLED.

BEFORE WE KNEW IT, WE'D EACH BECOME OUR RESPECTIVE CLAN'S LEADER.

WE WERE THE FURTHEST PLACE POSSIBLE FROM THE DREAM I'D WANTED TO FULFILL.

FLYING RAIJIN SLICE !!!

?!!

MADARA... YOU CANNOT WIN AGAINST ME...

SO...

HUF

...

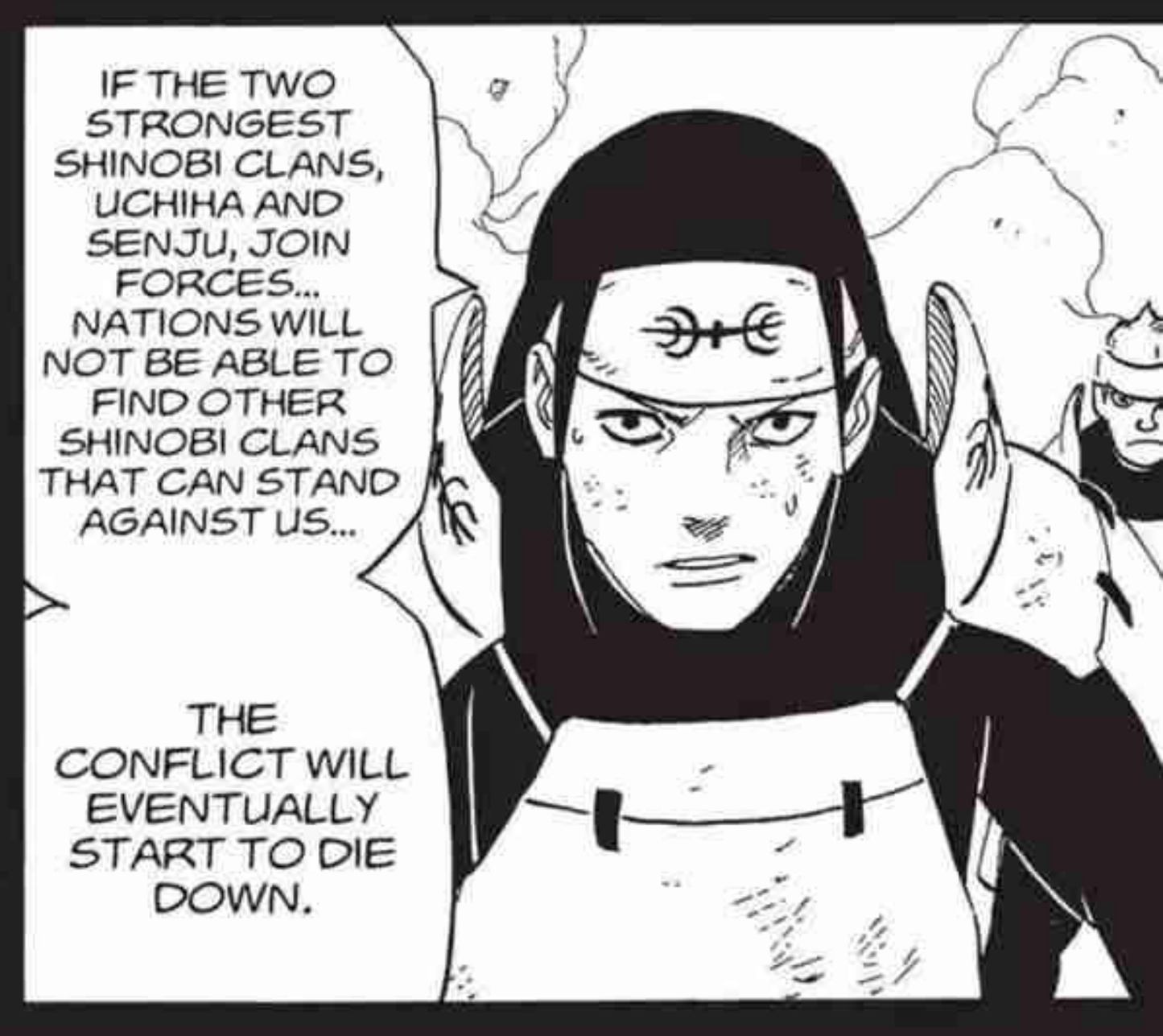
HUF

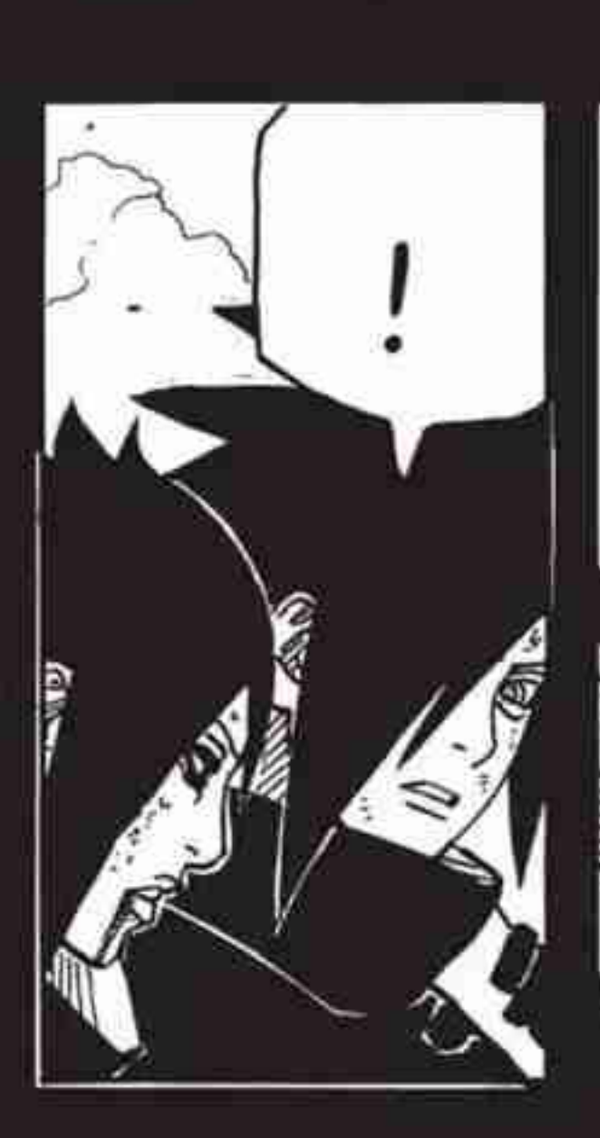
GOF

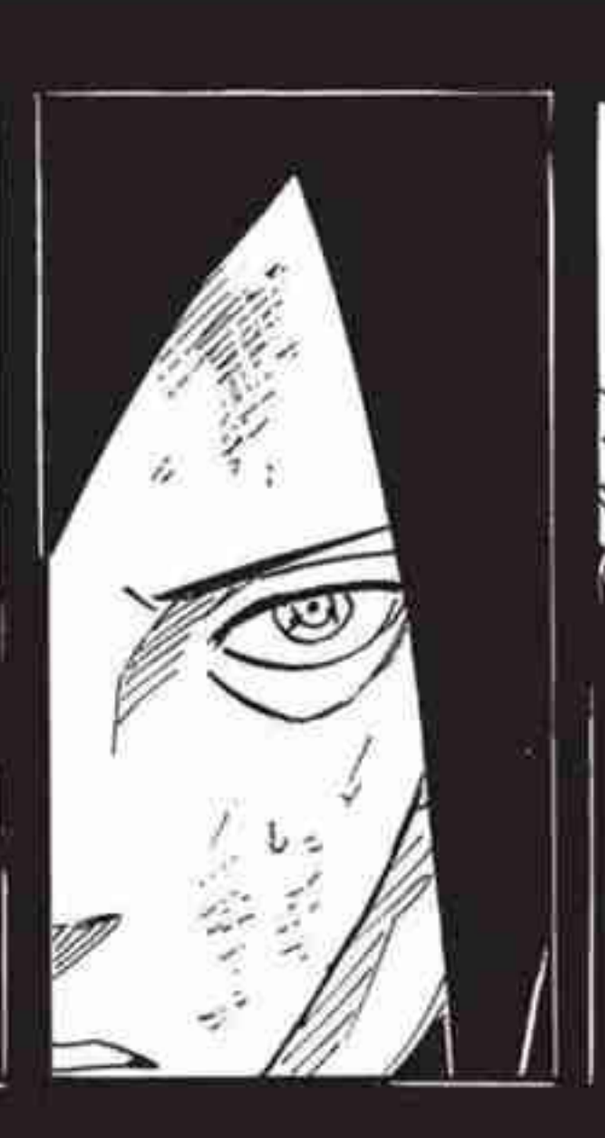
IZUNA !!

WHY DON'T WE END THIS...?

BUT I HAD NEVER ABANDONED OUR DREAM...







BOOF

FSH

SSSSH...

THAT'S ABOUT WHEN MADARA CHANGED AS WELL...

IN FACT, DEFECTORS TO SENJU SOON BEGAN SHOWING UP.
IT WAS CLEAR TO ALL THAT THE UCHIHA CLAN WAS IN AN UNFAVORABLE POSITION.

HE HAD OBTAINED THE ETERNAL MANGEKYO SHARINGAN.

MY LITTLE BROTHER ENDED UP DYING FROM THAT DAY'S WOUNDS...

...LEAVING ME POWERS THAT WILL HELP PROTECT *UCHIHA!*

HUF

HUF

MADARA'S BACK TOUCHED THE GROUND FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.

AT THE END OF A BATTLE THAT LASTED A WHOLE DAY...

THO THO THO THO...

MADARA... YOU'RE FINISHED.

HUF

HAK

WHY, ELDER BROTHER?!

THIS IS OUR CHANCE!!

...

WAIT, TOBIRAMA.

NO ONE TOUCHES HIM!

WELL, THERE IS A WAY TO SHOW EACH OTHER OUR GUTS...

AND I JUST CAN'T TRUST YOU...

I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE BROTHER LEFT...

...

...NO WAY I CAN CON-VINCE YOU?

IS THERE ...

AND THEN... WE'LL BE EVEN...

I'D BE WILLING TO TRUST YOUR CLAN.

EITHER KILL YOUR BROTHER... OR KILL YOURSELF, RIGHT NOW.

HOW DARE YOU SAY SUCH AN OUTLANDISH--

KILL YOUR LITTLE BROTHER OR YOURSELF?!

Number 625: My True Dream

MADARA HAD GIVEN ME A CHOICE... AN OPTION WHERE I WOULDN'T HAVE TO KILL MY LITTLE BROTHER...

!

KLAK

I FORBID ANY FIGHTING BETWEEN UCHIHA AND SENJU.

AFTER MY DEATH, DO *NOT* KILL MADARA.

HE TOO KNEW HOW AN OLDER BROTHER FEELS TOWARD HIS YOUNGER SIBLINGS...

WORDS THAT I SHALL BE EXCHANGING WITH MY LIFE.

YOU TOO, MY FELLOW CLAN MEMBERS.

LISTEN, TOBIRAMA... CARVE INTO YOUR HEART THESE FINAL WORDS OF MINE...

FARE-WELL!

SWEAR THIS RIGHT NOW, UPON OUR FATHERS AND YET UNBORN GRANDCHILDREN!

PITTER

SPLISH

PITTER

SPLASH

FWISH

SPLISH

GRA

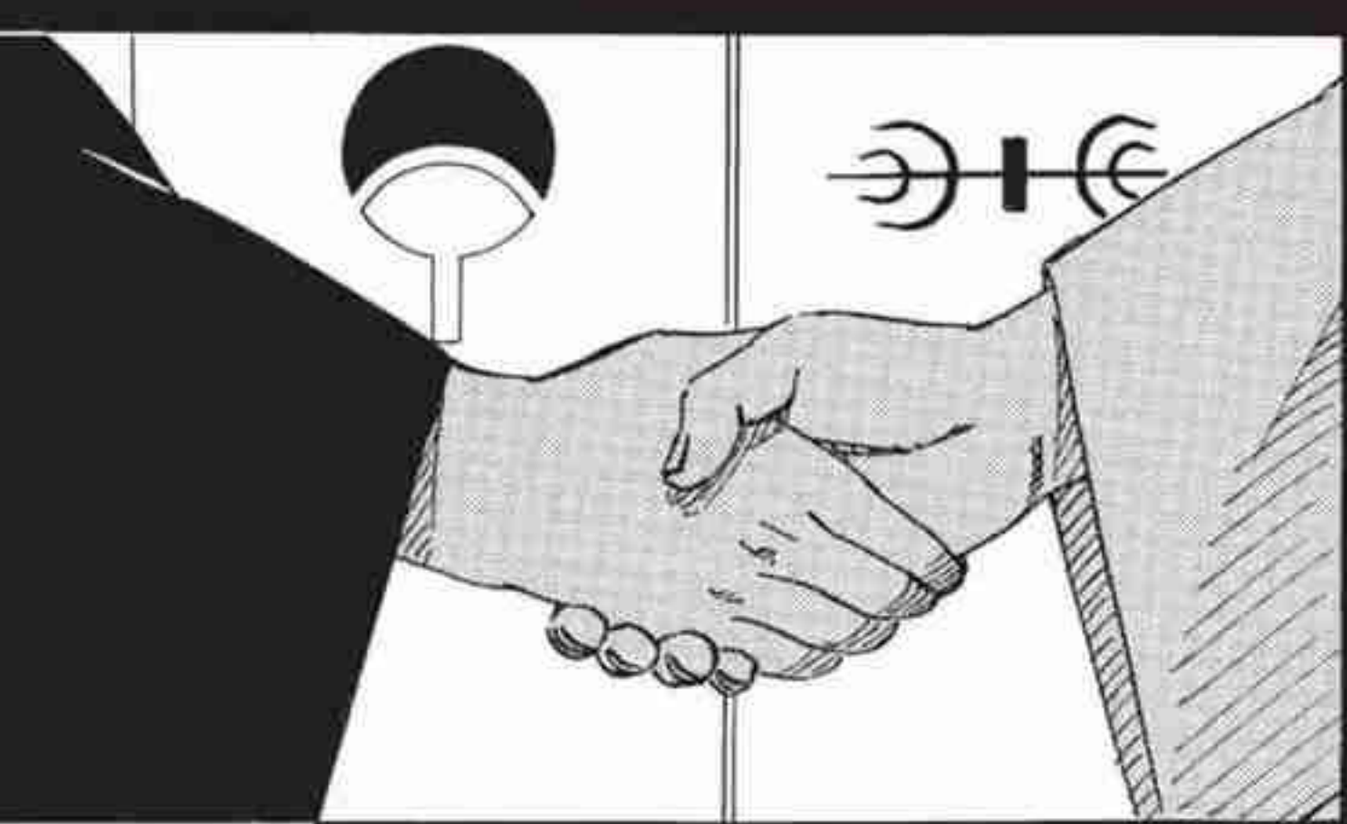
B

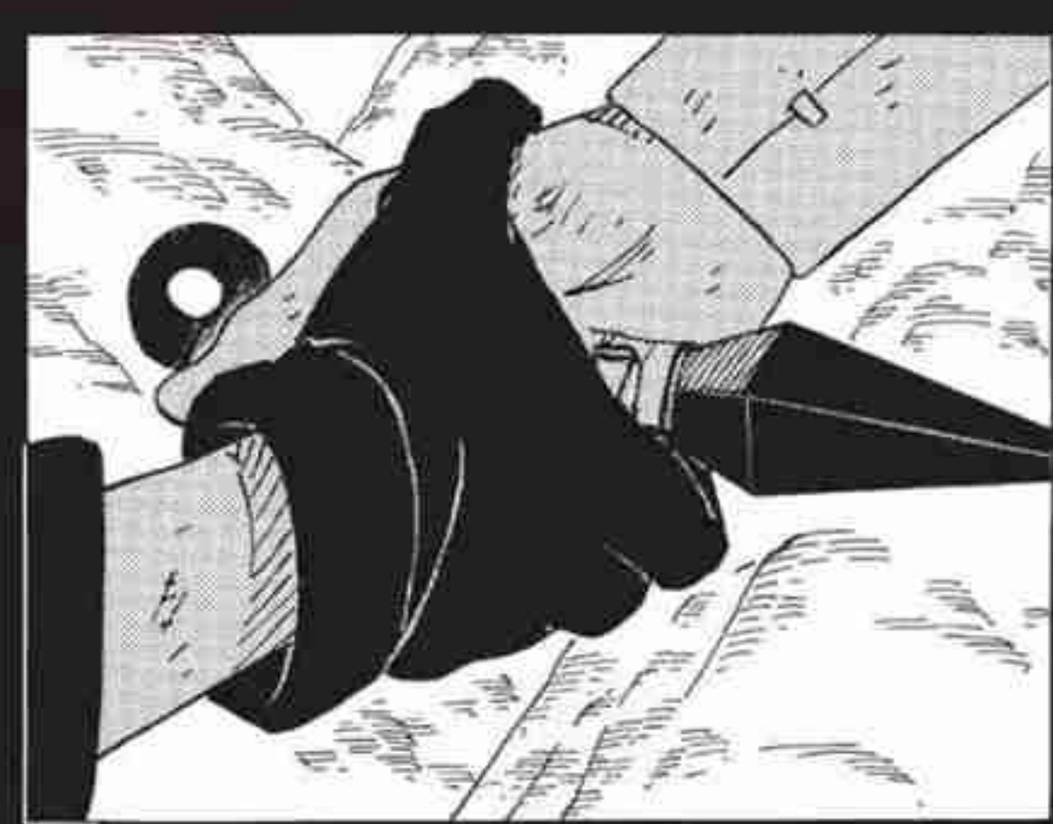
T K

I...HAVE NOW SEEN YOUR GUTS.

ENOUGH ...

...





THERE WOULD NO LONGER BE MASS CASUALTIES. NOR WOULD THE DEATHS OF COUNTLESS CHILDREN BE NECESSARY ANYMORE.

IT WAS LIKE A DREAM... UCHIHA AND SENJU HAD JOINED FORCES.

LATER, WE WOULD ALLY WITH THE LAND OF FIRE, AND THE CREATION OF A PEACEFUL STATE UNIT WHERE NATION AND VILLAGE STOOD ON EQUAL FOOTING ALSO COMMENCED.

AND SO WE BEGAN BUILDING OUR VILLAGE...

IN ANY CASE, IT WAS DREAMLIKE...

WELL?
THE LEADER OF SHINOBI WHO PROTECTS THE LAND OF FIRE FROM THE SHADOWS...
THE FIRE SHADOW, OR HOKAGE.

EVEN THOUGH THERE REALLY WASN'T ANYTHING TRULY BEYOND MY GRASP, I...
I THOUGHT WE WERE JUST DREAMING...
THAT DREAM IS NOW BECOMING REALITY.

I'M CONSIDERING NAMING YOU TO BE OUR LEADER...
...THE HOKAGE.

WHAT'S THAT?
THE LAND OF FIRE HAS REQUESTED THAT WE SELECT SOMEONE TO REPRESENT THE VILLAGE.

ME, WHO COULDN'T EVEN PROTECT MY OWN BRETHREN ...?

YOU WILL PROTECT THEM ALL.

I'D LIKE YOU TO THINK OF ALL OF THIS VILLAGE'S SHINOBI AS YOUR SIBLINGS.
YOU MAY NOT HAVE ANY BLOOD SIBLINGS LEFT, BUT...

AND OTHERS AS WELL...

YOU'RE KIDDING... ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

THIS VILLAGE IS GOING TO KEEP ON EXPANDING!

THERE'S NO TIME TO BE WEAK-KNEED RIGHT NOW!

...IT SEEMS THE SARUTOBI AND SHIMURA CLANS WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US AS WELL.

FOR IN ADDITION TO OUR TWO CLANS...

...

ANY THOUGHTS?

WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO COME UP WITH A NAME FOR THE VILLAGE TOO.

HOW ABOUT... KONOHA-GAKURE?

THE VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE LEAVES.

...

FSH...

AND YOU STILL HAVE THAT HABIT OF GETTING DEPRESSED REALLY EASILY?!!

HOW IS THAT ANY DIFFERENT FROM "HOKAGE," EH?!!

GLOOM

YOU CALLED IT EXACTLY AS YOU SAW IT...

NO SPIN OR INGENUITY AT ALL...

...THAT'S SO SIMPLISTIC...

SO YOU'RE SAYING THE ROLE OF HOKAGE IS TO STAY IN THE VILLAGE AND PROTECT EVERYONE?

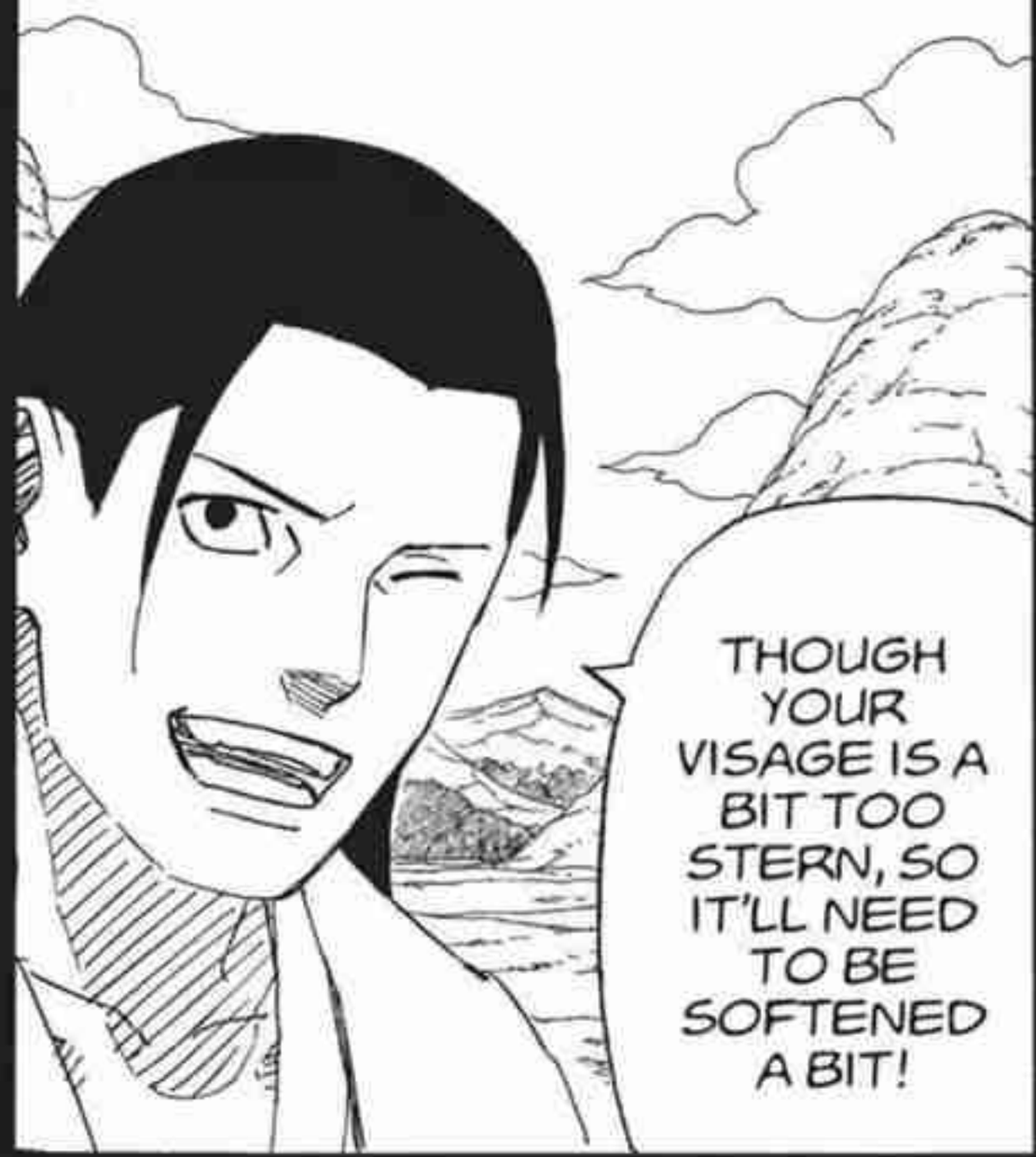
IT HAD TAKEN A LONG TIME, BUT I FELT LIKE WE'D MANAGED TO GET BACK TO OUR OLD CAMARADERIE.

AS A SYMBOL OF OUR VILLAGE'S PROTEC-TOR!

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO HAVE YOUR LIKENESS CARVED INTO THIS CLIFF FACE AT OUR FEET.

AS OUR VILLAGE-BUILDING PICKS UP SPEED, THE HOKAGE WILL GET BUSIER TOO...

YEAH, BUT THAT'S ONLY A SMALL PART OF IT.


THOUGH YOUR VISAGE IS A BIT TOO STERN, SO IT'LL NEED TO BE SOFTENED A BIT!

YOU'RE KIDDING...

TOBI-RAMA...

WHAT ARE YOU DAWDLING HERE FOR?! THE DAIMYO OF THE LAND OF FIRE WILL BE ARRIVING ANY MINUTE NOW FOR THE CONFERENCE!
THERE YOU ARE...
SHUP

FOR HOKAGE ?!

...
...

TO PROPOSE MADARA AS A LEADER *CANDIDATE* IS ONE THING.

BUT THE FINAL DECISION SHOULD REST ON THE POPULAR OPINION OF BOTH THE LAND OF FIRE AND OUR VILLAGE, ALONG WITH DISCOURSE WITH SENIOR MEMBERS!

THESE ARE DIFFERENT TIMES COMPARED TO FATHER'S!

THAT'S NOT YOUR CHOICE!

BESIDES WHICH... HAVE YOU NOT HEARD THE RUMORS ABOUT THE UCHIHA?

EVERYONE KNOWS... THAT YOU'RE THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THIS VILLAGE...

EVEN THE UCHIHA ARE WILLING TO ACKNOWL-EDGE THAT.

PLUS... UCHIHA MADARA WOULD NEVER BE SELECTED TO LEAD US.

BUT...

QUIT SAYING SUCH THINGS, TOBIRAMA!

SO FOR THE SAKE OF THE VILLAGE'S FUTURE...

YOU CAN NEVER TELL WHAT THEY MIGHT DO.

THAT THE STRONGER THEIR HATE, THE GREATER THEIR OCULAR POWERS.

THAT'S THE SECRET OF THE SHARINGAN.

SHUP

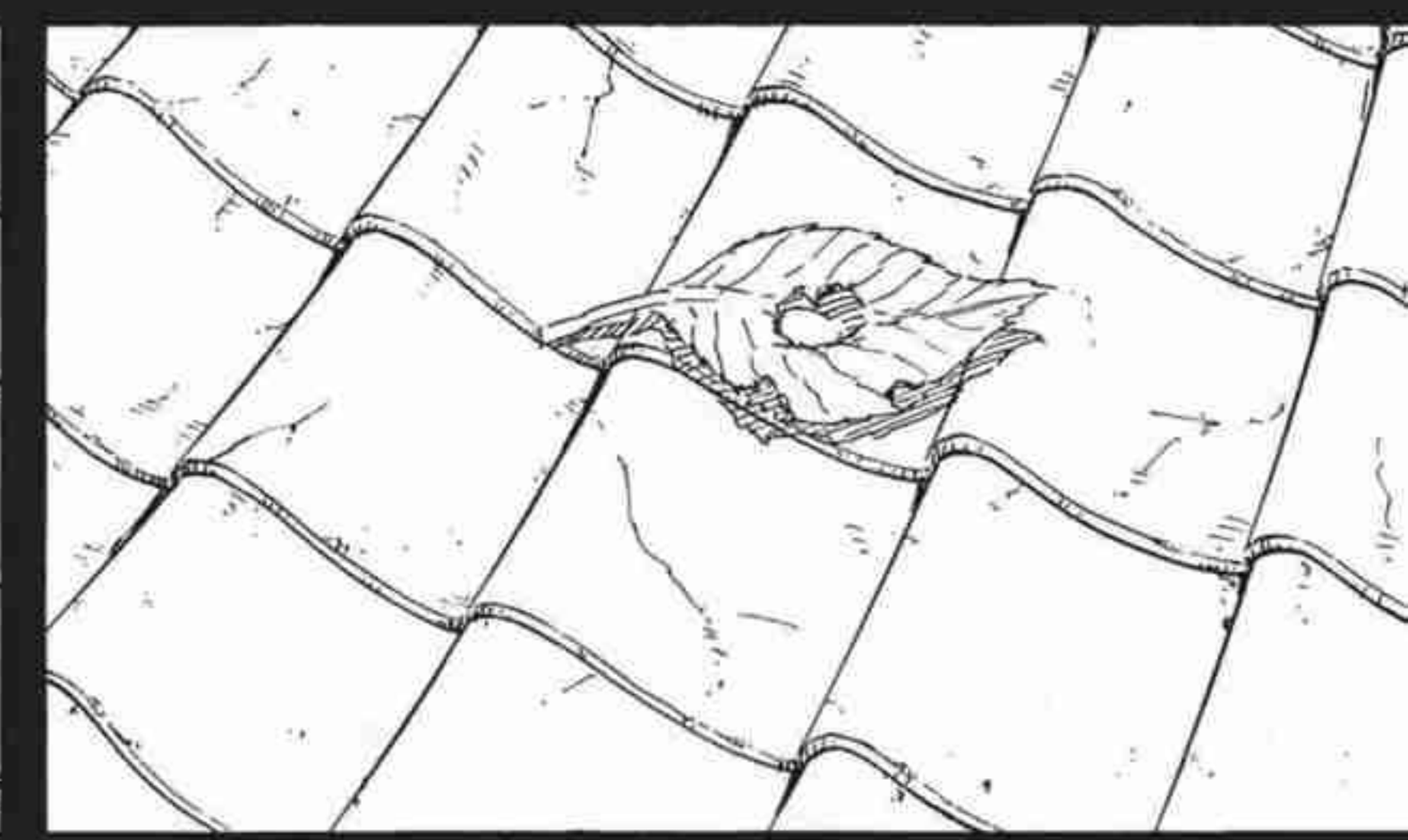
CREAK

!

DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT, ELDER BROTHER!
NOPE... I'M NOT KNEADING CHAKRA RIGHT NOW...

TOBI-RAMA... YOU WOULD KNOW.
I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE WAS JUST HERE.
KLATTER
KLATTER

FSH



ANY DISAGREE-MENT?
WE'RE GOING TO ADMINISTER THINGS DEMOCRAT-ICALLY FROM NOW ON...

NO... THAT'S FINE.
...

...!
FLIT

THIS STONE TABLET HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN WITHIN THE UCHIHA...

IT'S NEVER BEEN SHOWN TO AN OUTSIDER BEFORE.

THE SPECIAL TEXT IT'S WRITTEN WITH REQUIRES OCULAR POWERS TO DECIPHER.

"ONE GOD, SEEKING STABILITY, SPLIT INTO LIGHT AND SHADOW.

AND IT IS THESE TWO POLAR OPPOSITES OPERATING TOGETHER THAT GIVES RISE TO ALL THINGS IN THIS UNIVERSE."

THIS IS WHAT IT SAYS, AS FAR AS I'M ABLE TO DECODE AT THIS POINT...

...?
IT COULD ALSO BE INTER-PRETED DIFFER-ENTLY.
HOW-EVER...
YOU LEAVE TOBIRAMA TO ME...
THE VILLAGERS WILL EVENTUALLY RECOGNIZE YOUR MERITS...
KEEP WORKING WITH ME AS THE HOKAGE'S RIGHT HAND, AND AS A BROTHER!
I CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU...
HASHIRAMA... DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING...?
...
BUT IT SEEMS NOT ONE PERSON IS WILLING TO COME WITH ME.
KNOWING THIS, I REACHED OUT TO OTHER UCHIHA, CALLED UPON THEM TO LEAVE AND ABANDON THE VILLAGE...
AND IF THAT HAPPENS, THE UCHIHA WILL SLOWLY BE EXPUNGED...
I SUSPECT TOBIRAMA WILL BECOME HOKAGE AFTER YOU.
AND THEN, I'LL NAME YOU SECOND HOKAGE...

I'M NOT EVEN TRUSTED BY THE BRETHREN WHOM I WANT TO PROTECT...

AND IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP MY OATH TO PROTECT MY CLAN EITHER...

I COULDN'T PROTECT MY LITTLE BROTHERS...

BUT WHICH OF US WOULD YOU SACRIFICE FOR THE SAKE OF THE VILLAGE?

YOU CALL ME YOUR BROTHER...

PERHAPS... I SHOULD'VE ONLY GIVEN YOU THE OPTION OF KILLING YOUR LITTLE BROTHER THAT DAY...

I'M SURE EVERYONE WILL...

THAT'S NOT TRUE!

I'VE FOUND A DIFFERENT PATH, A DIFFERENT WAY.

I'VE HAD ENOUGH...

I'M GOING TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE.

I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT I KNOW YOU PRETTY WELL.

...

IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU CONSTRUE REALITY, HASHIRAMA...

BUT LET'S AGREE NOT TO ARGUE TRIVIALITIES...

SHUP

THAT'S NOT TRUE! I WON'T LET IT BE LIKE THAT!

COOPERATION IS MERELY A QUIETER FORM OF CONFLICT.

I CAN SEE IT NOW ONLY BECAUSE WE'VE SHOWN OUR GUTS TO EACH OTHER...

...

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME AT ALL, MADARA?!

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S AN EVEN MATCH FOR ME.

IT'S MUCH SOUNDER TO JUST SEE THIS WORLD AS ENTERTAIN-MENT...

...UP UNTIL THE TIME I ACHIEVE *MY TRUE DREAM.*

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE BATTLES WE'LL FIGHT...

Number 626: Hashirama and Madara, Part 2

AND YOU SHALL NEVER REACH IT.

HEH...

THERE IS NO LINK.

...THAT ***NO ONE*** IS CAPABLE OF CATCHING ME FROM BEHIND.

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE KNOW...

IT'S USELESS TO CHASE AFTER ME...

MADARA NO LONGER EXISTED...

...IN THE VILLAGE WE HAD CREATED TOGETHER.

UPON SAYING THAT, MADARA LEFT THE VILLAGE.

OUR DREAM HAD COME TRUE.

BUT IN THE WORLD AT LARGE, EVERYONE RESPECTED AND STARTED COPYING OUR VILLAGE SYSTEM OF ALLIED NINJA CLANS, WHICH HAD BEEN CREATED BY THE FORMER WARRING RIVALS UCHIHA AND SENJU JOINING FORCES.

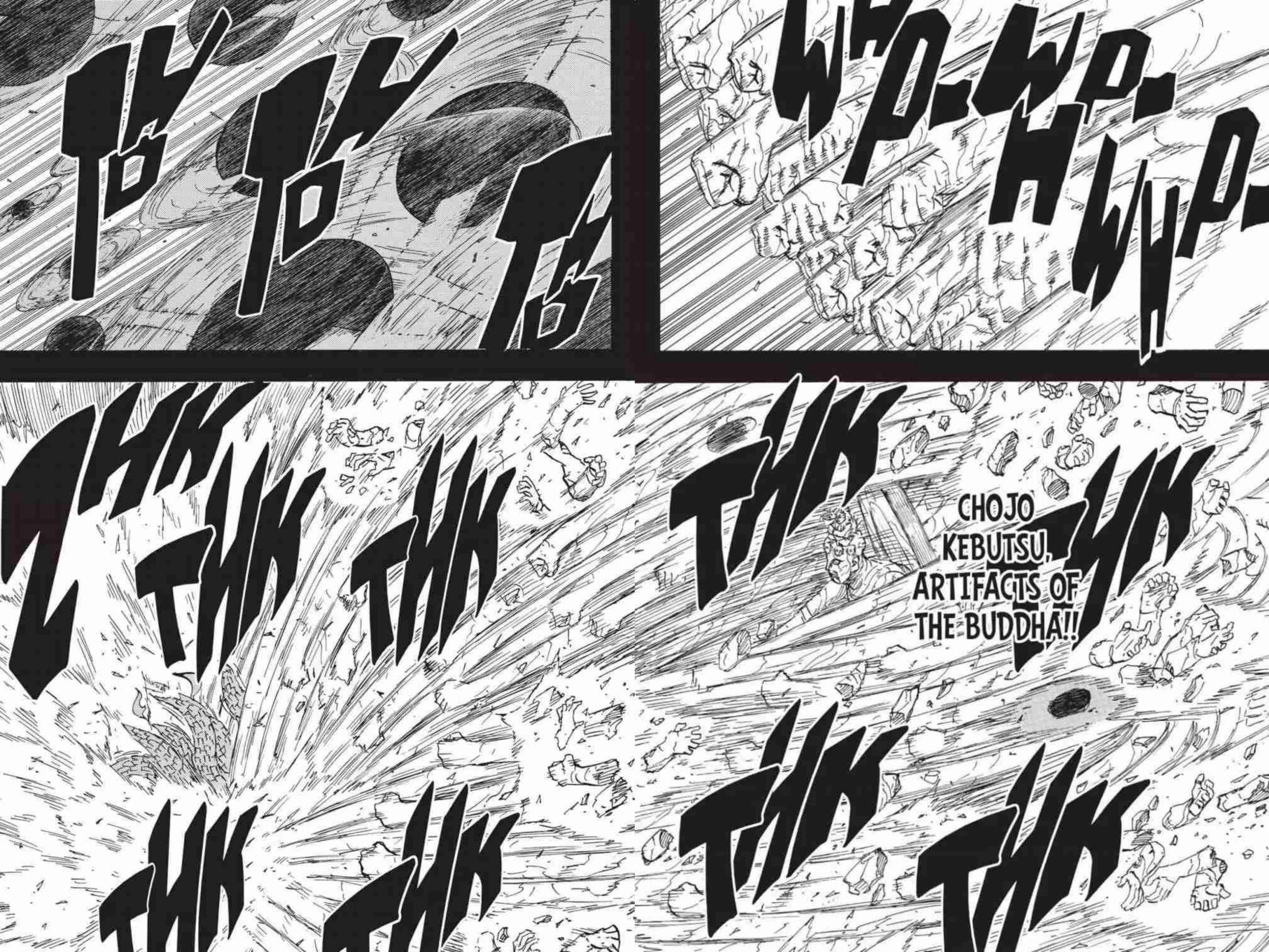
...AND STARTED LIVING LONG ENOUGH TO EVEN KNOW THE TASTE OF ALCOHOL.

SHINOBI CHILDREN GOT TO KNOW ABOUT LEARNING AND PLAYING INSTEAD OF BATTLE...

...MADARA CAME BACK TO ATTACK KONOHA VILLAGE.

BUT AS IF HE WANTED TO DESTROY HIS PREVIOUS DREAM...

RAAA!!


TOK TOK TOK
WHO-WHO-WHO-
THK THK THK THK
CHOJO KEBUTSU, ARTIFACTS OF THE BUDDHA!!
THK THK THK THK

KLU

KK

BO

M

ALW

OO

SUSANO'O'S BEEN STRIPPED OFF!!

HUF

HUF

GR

GARRRR !!

KAKUAN'S TENTH EDICT ON ENLIGHTENMENT !!

HERE I COME!!

TAK

TMP

!!

TAK

FWP

!!

THO ON

ON K...

TMP

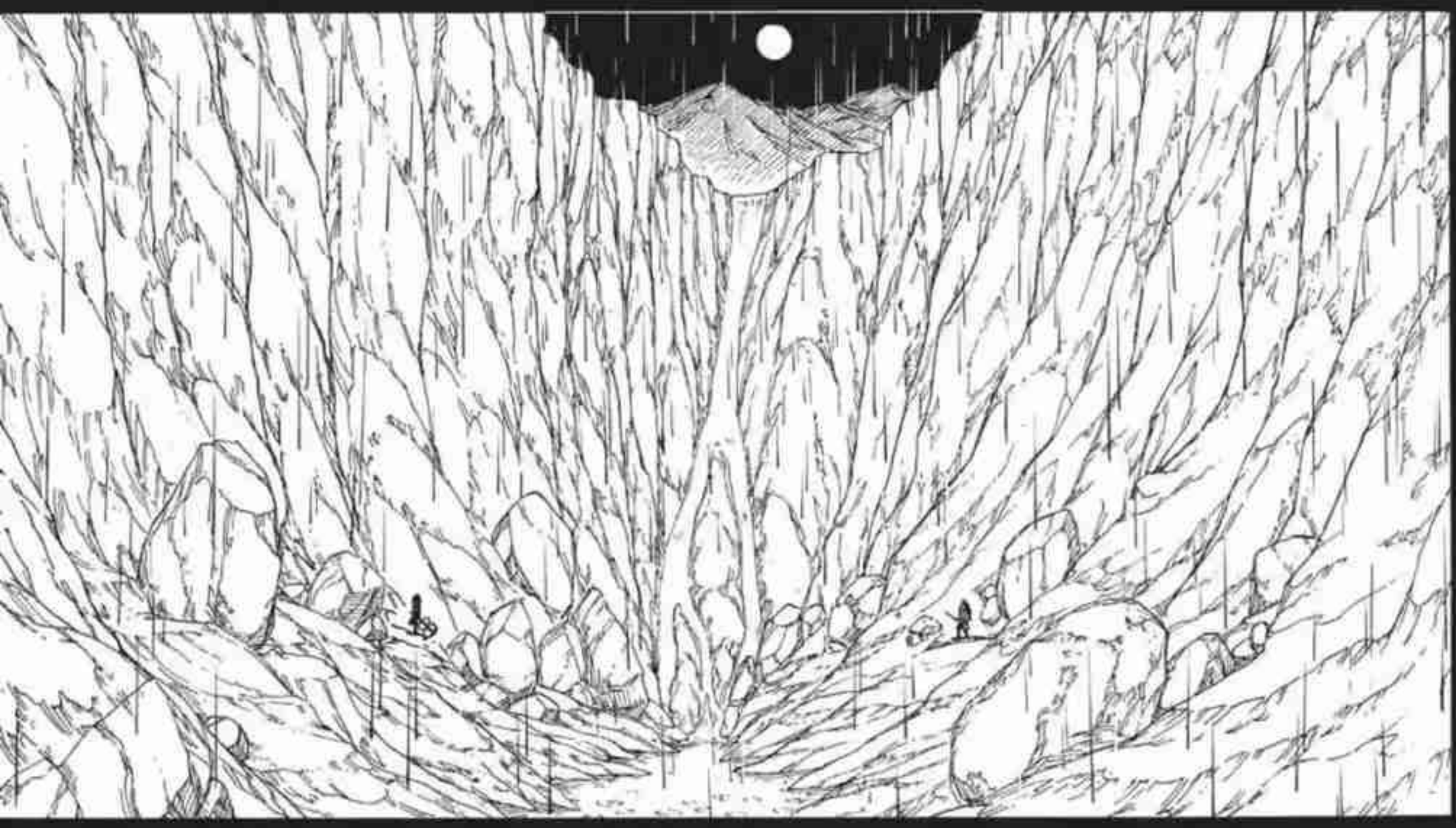
WHS...

!!

MUFF
MUFF

MUFF
MUFF

ZAAA...



TA
K
!

TA
K

THIS TIME... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO REACH THE OTHER SIDE.

SPL
ACH
SH

THE OPPOSITE OF LAST TIME.
I'M THE ONE STILL STANDING.

SPL
ACH
SK
RE

CAN'T PERK BACK UP THIS TIME?
YOU LOOK PRETTY DE-PRESSED... HASHIRAMA.

...I SIMPLY... WANT TO PROTECT... THE DREAM I FINALLY REALIZED.
HUF
UGH...
HUF
WE'VE FOUGHT ENOUGH...

THE FIRST STEPS ARE FOR US TO NOT GIVE UP ON OUR IDEALS AND TO GET A LOT STRONGER.
GULP
GULP

TK

...IS IT NOT POSSIBLE TO SHOW OUR GUTS TO EACH OTHER?

THAT DREAM IS NOW BECOMING REALITY.
EVEN THOUGH THERE REALLY WASN'T ANYTHING TRULY BEYOND MY GRASP...

LET'S BUILD OUR SETTLEMENT HERE!!

...
DRIP

WH...

A WOOD DOPPEL-GANGER...

...I CAN'T BELIEVE... MY BACK... WAS TAKEN...
ZAAA...

...!!

Tu

NK

I STILL BELIEVE TO THIS DAY THAT PROTECTING...

...THE ***VILLAGE*** SHALL LEAD TO THE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE, SHINOBI AND CHILDREN!

OR RATHER, ***MY*** VILLAGE.

NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.

I AM GOING TO PROTECT OUR...

...OR EVEN MY VERY OWN CHILD.

*I SHALL NOT TOLERATE **ANYONE** WHO SEEKS TO HARM THE VILLAGE, BE THEY FRIEND, BROTHER...*

TO ENDURE IN ORDER TO WATCH OVER THE ***PRESENT.***

I MADE A RESOLUTION THAT DAY.

...

YOU'VE CHANGED... HASHIRAMA...

DNK

SPLSH

...TO DARK-NESS...

IT SHALL SOMEDAY... LEAD THE VILLAGE...

YOU'RE MISTAKING THE CAUSE FOR THE END...

ZAAA...

!

SPLASH

OK

AND THUS... THE BATTLE BETWEEN MADARA AND MYSELF CAME TO AN END.

BUT I DEFINITELY KILLED MY FRIEND... FOR THE SAKE OF THE VILLAGE.

I DO NOT KNOW HOW MADARA RETURNED TO LIFE NOW...

THE VILLAGE IS...

SO YES...

...

...AND MADE PEACE A REALITY.

IT PROTECTED THE CHILDREN, AVERTED POINTLESS CONFLICT...

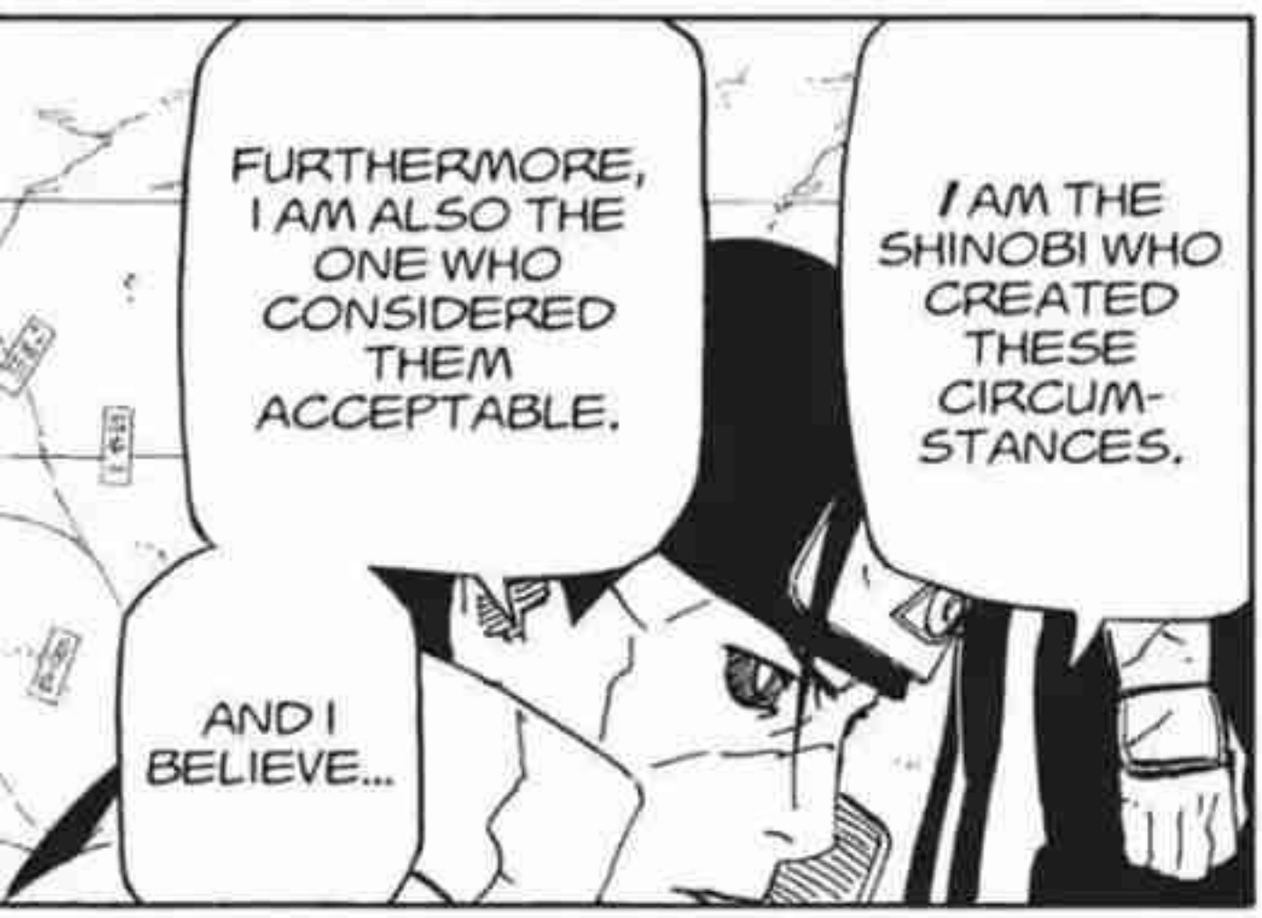
AN INVALUABLE CORNERSTONE THAT CREATED ORDER OUT OF CHAOS AND THEN MAINTAINED IT.

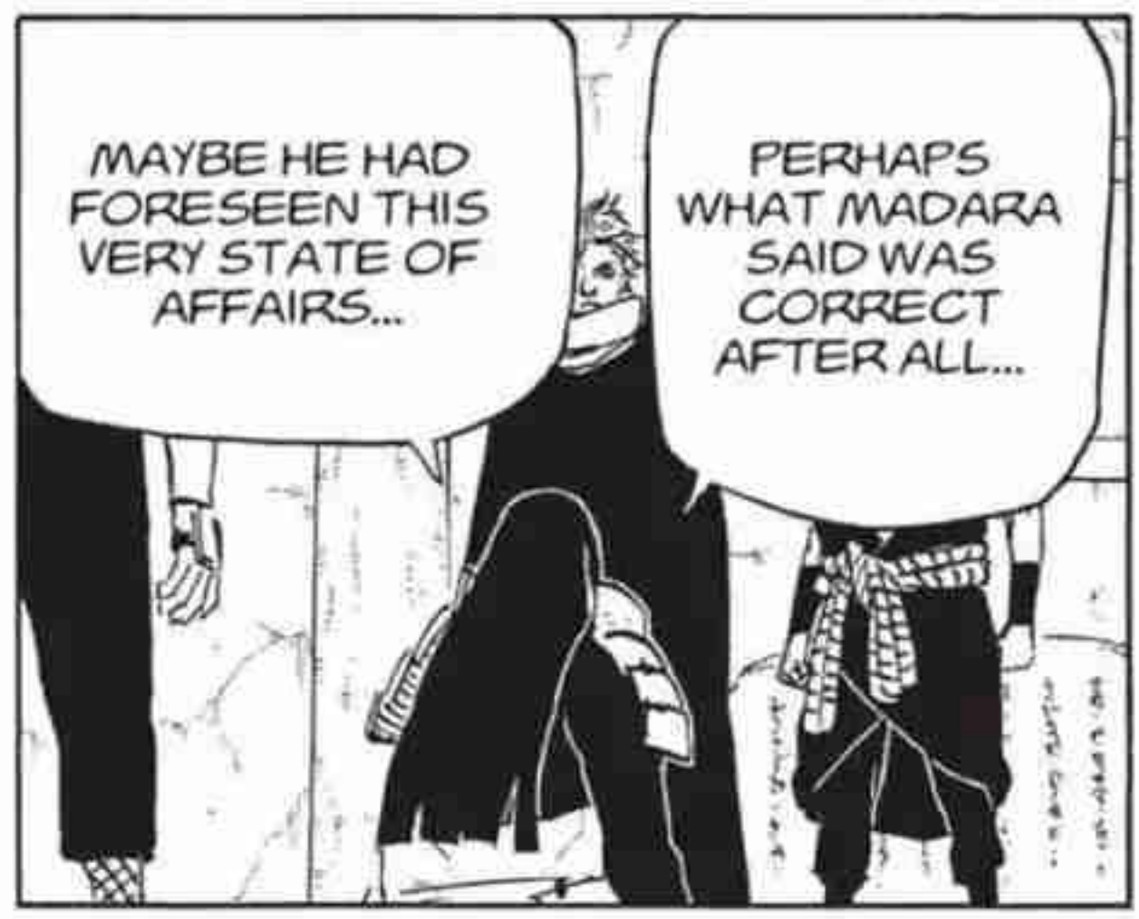
...IS SOMETHING THAT JOINED ONE CLAN TO ANOTHER.

THE VILLAGE MADARA AND I ENVISIONED IN THE BEGINNING...

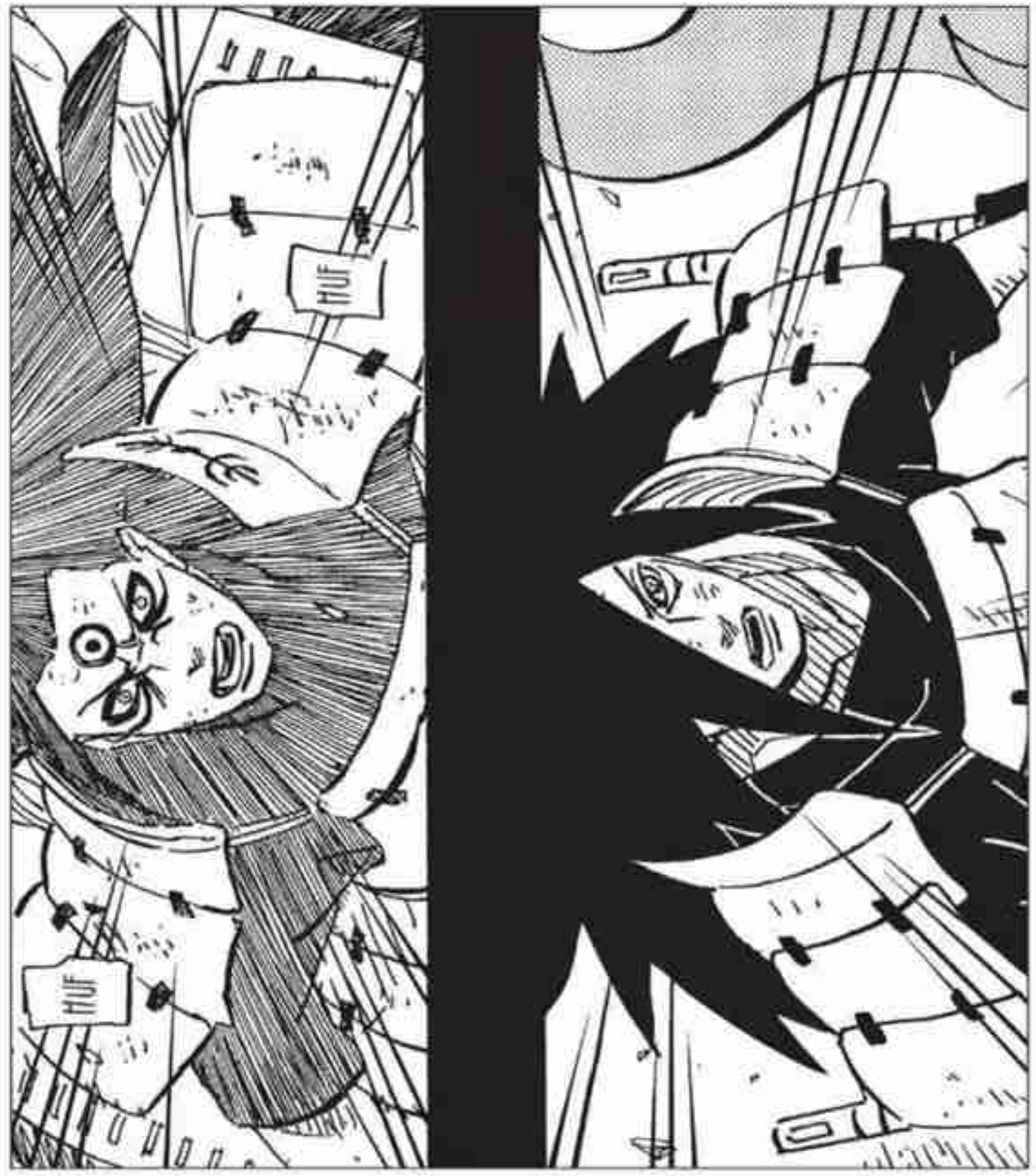
...

IT ALSO GAVE RISE TO DARKNESS, SUCH AS THAT BORNE BY YOUR OLDER BROTHER ITACHI.
HOW-EVER...

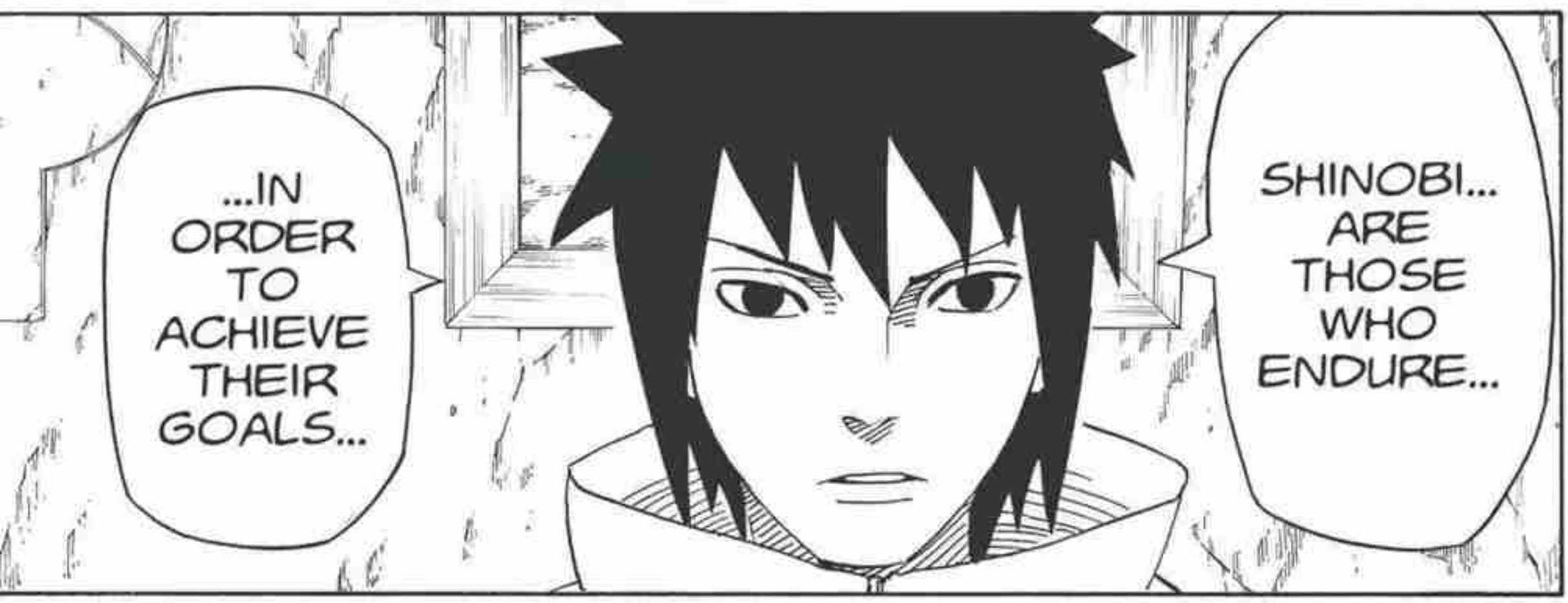

FURTHERMORE, I AM ALSO THE ONE WHO CONSIDERED THEM ACCEPTABLE.
I AM THE SHINOBI WHO CREATED THESE CIRCUM-STANCES.
AND I BELIEVE...

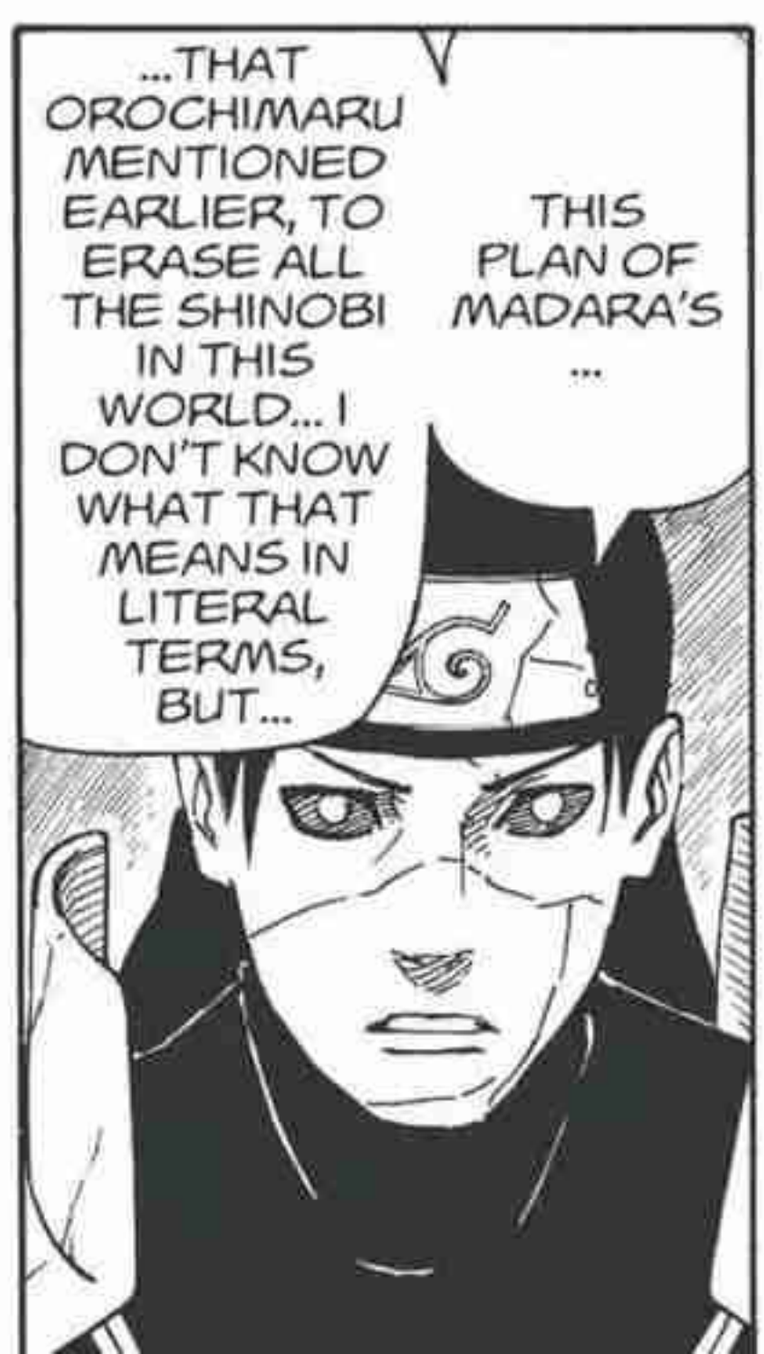

MAYBE HE HAD FORESEEN THIS VERY STATE OF AFFAIRS...
PERHAPS WHAT MADARA SAID WAS CORRECT AFTER ALL...

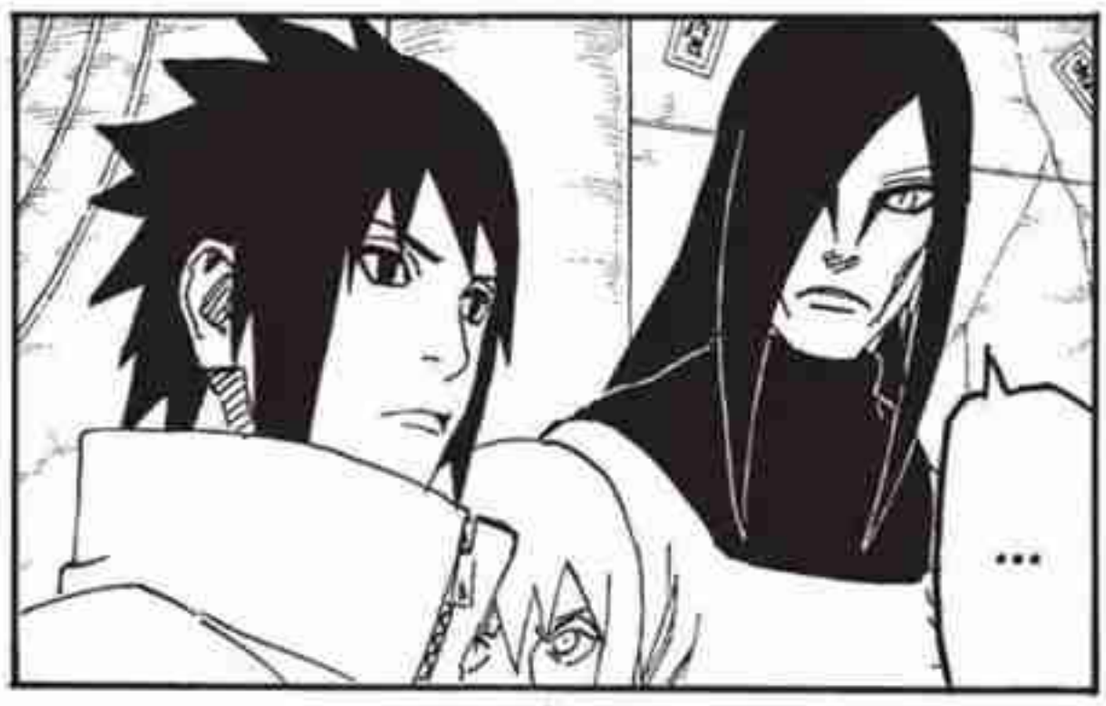
BUT DEPENDING ON WHAT THAT PURPOSE IS, A SHINOBI CAN CHANGE...
JUST AS BOTH MADARA AND I DID...
...THAT SHINOBI ARE THOSE WHO ENDURE FOR A PURPOSE...

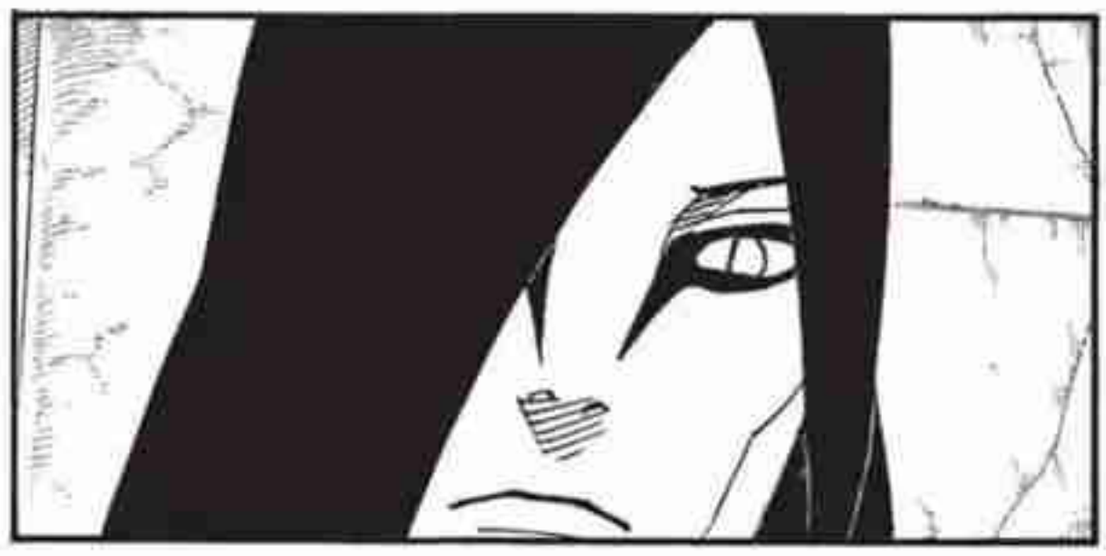


Number 627: Sasuke's Answer



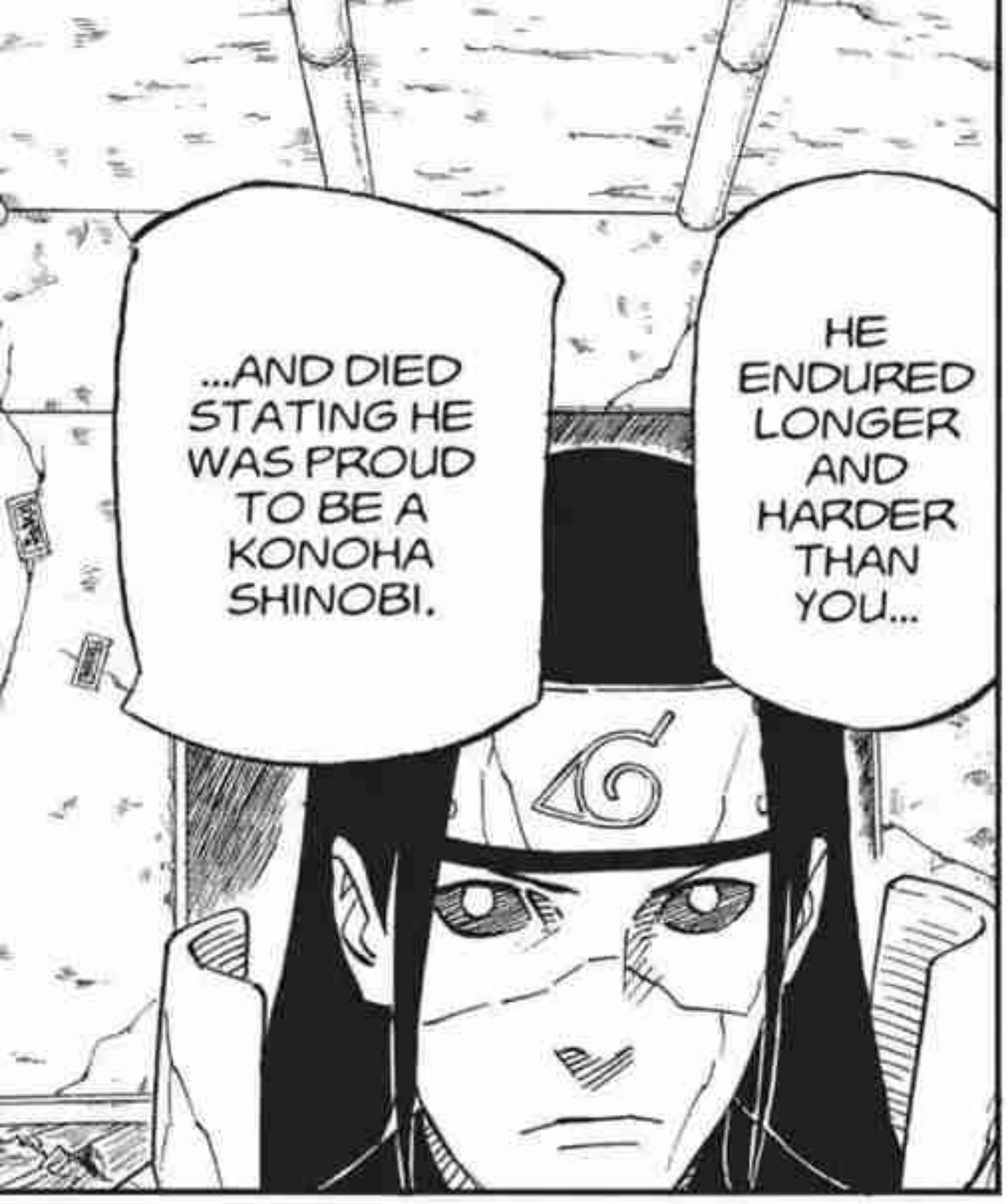


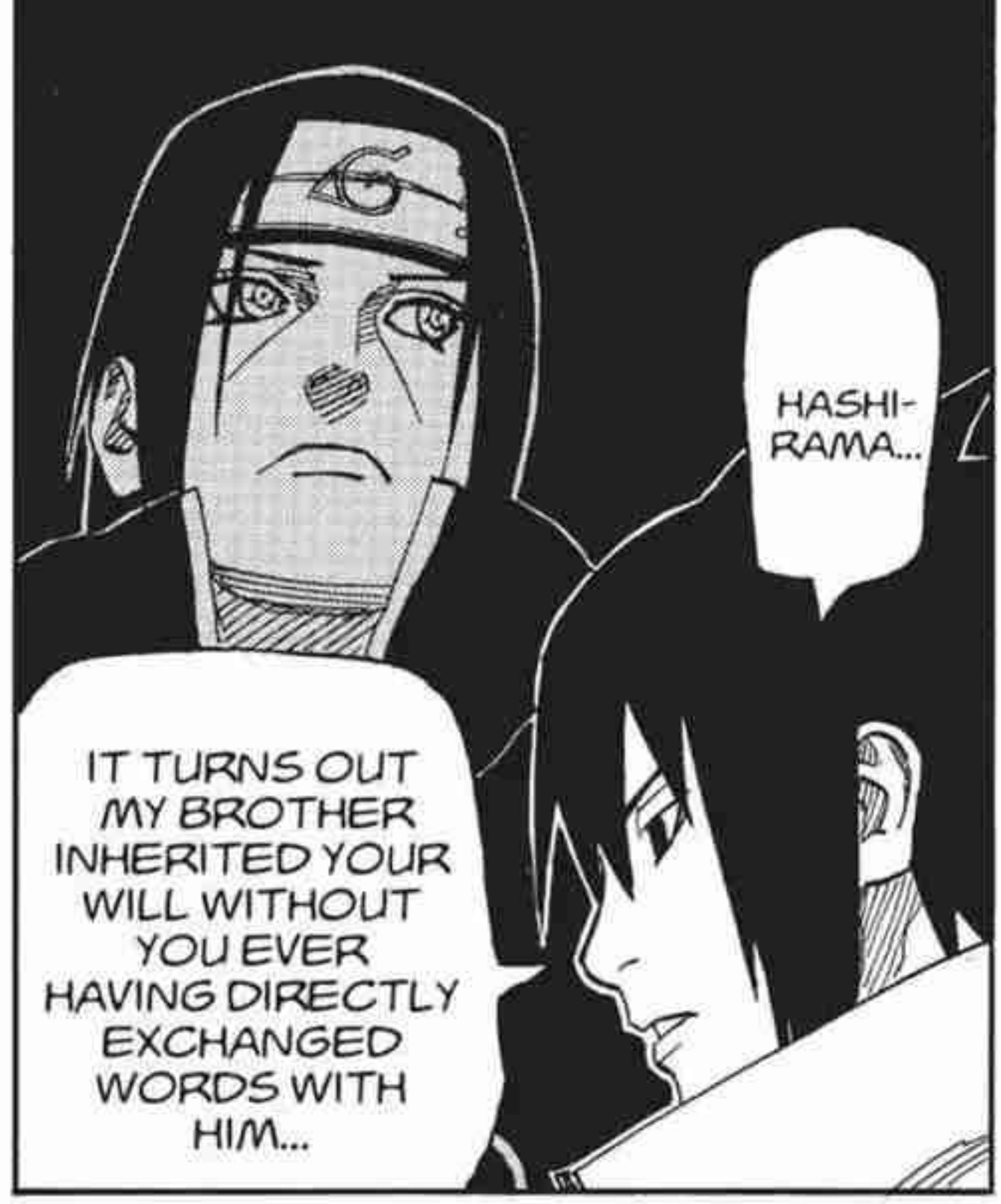




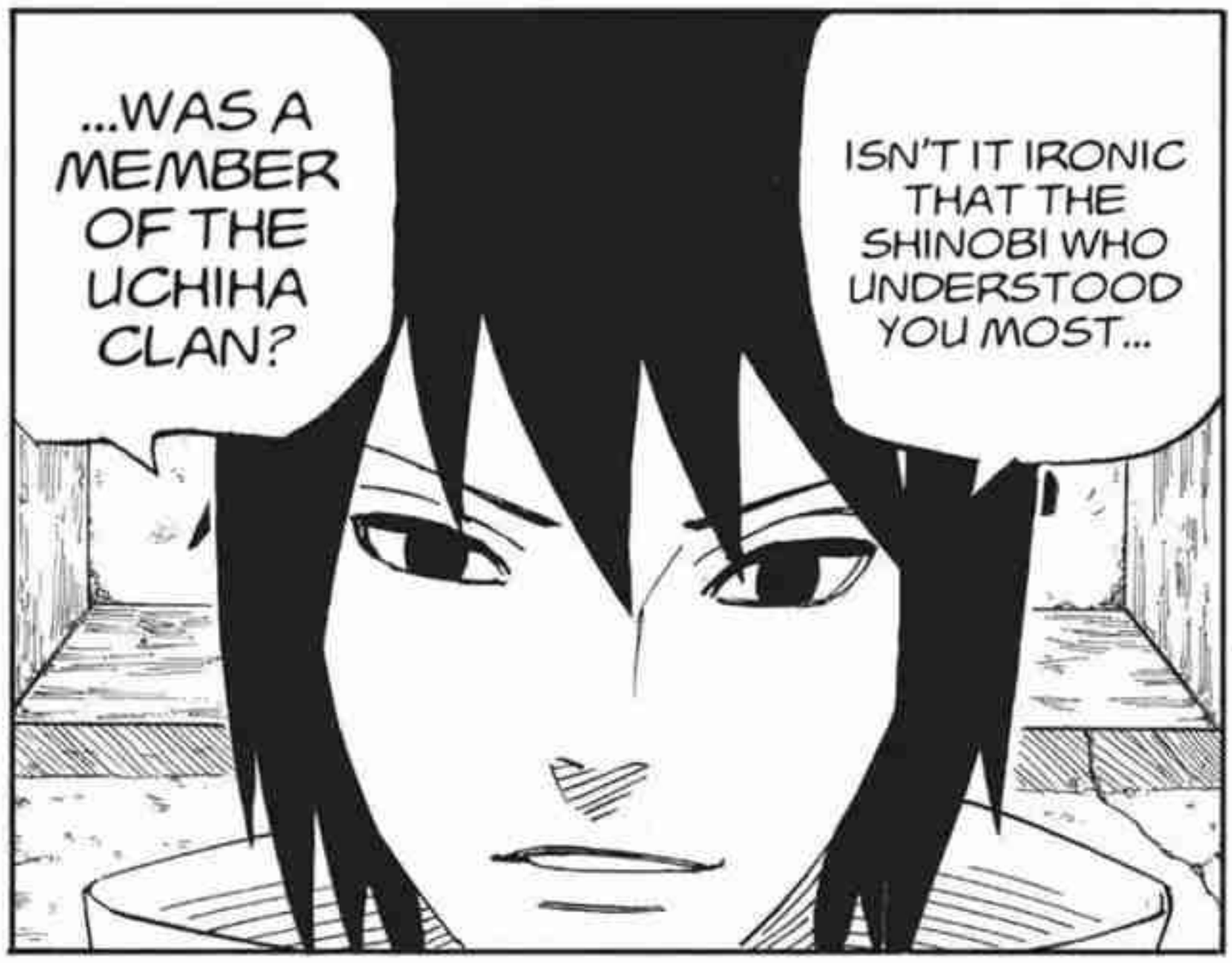
TO NULLIFY EVERYTHING THAT MY BROTHER... MADARA'S LITTLE BROTHER... AND ALL OF YOU...

...HAVE STRIVEN TO PROTECT.


...AND DIED STATING HE WAS PROUD TO BE A KONOHA SHINOBI.
HE ENDURED LONGER AND HARDER THAN YOU...


HASHI-RAMA...
IT TURNS OUT MY BROTHER INHERITED YOUR WILL WITHOUT YOU EVER HAVING DIRECTLY EXCHANGED WORDS WITH HIM...

...


...WAS A MEMBER OF THE UCHIHA CLAN?
ISN'T IT IRONIC THAT THE SHINOBI WHO UNDERSTOOD YOU MOST...

SECOND HOKAGE... I THOUGHT YOU HATED THE UCHIHA?

ONE OF MY SUBORD-INATES WAS UCHIHA KAGAMI, A MAN A LOT LIKE YOUR BROTHER.
YOUR BROTHER WASN'T THE ONLY ONE.

HOWEVER... IT IS ALSO BECAUSE THEY COULD FEEL SUCH DEEP LOVE...
THEY COULD TRANSCEND THE FRAMEWORK OF CLAN AND DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO THE VILLAGE.
...THAT THERE WERE QUITE A FEW UCHIHA OVER THE YEARS LIKE YOUR BROTHER AND UCHIHA KAGAMI.

I SIMPLY TREATED ANY WHO POSED A DANGER TO THE VILLAGE, NO MATTER WHAT CLAN THEY BELONGED TO, WITH EXTREME CAUTION.
THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY TRUE...
THE UCHIHA JUST HAPPENED TO BE A CLAN PARTICULARLY DISPOSED TO BE CONSIDERED SUCH.

WELL... NOT THAT IT EVER GOES THAT EASILY, OF COURSE.
ELDER BROTHER THOUGHT OF THE VILLAGE AS SOMETHING THAT COULD ELIMINATE THE FRAME-WORK OF CLANS...

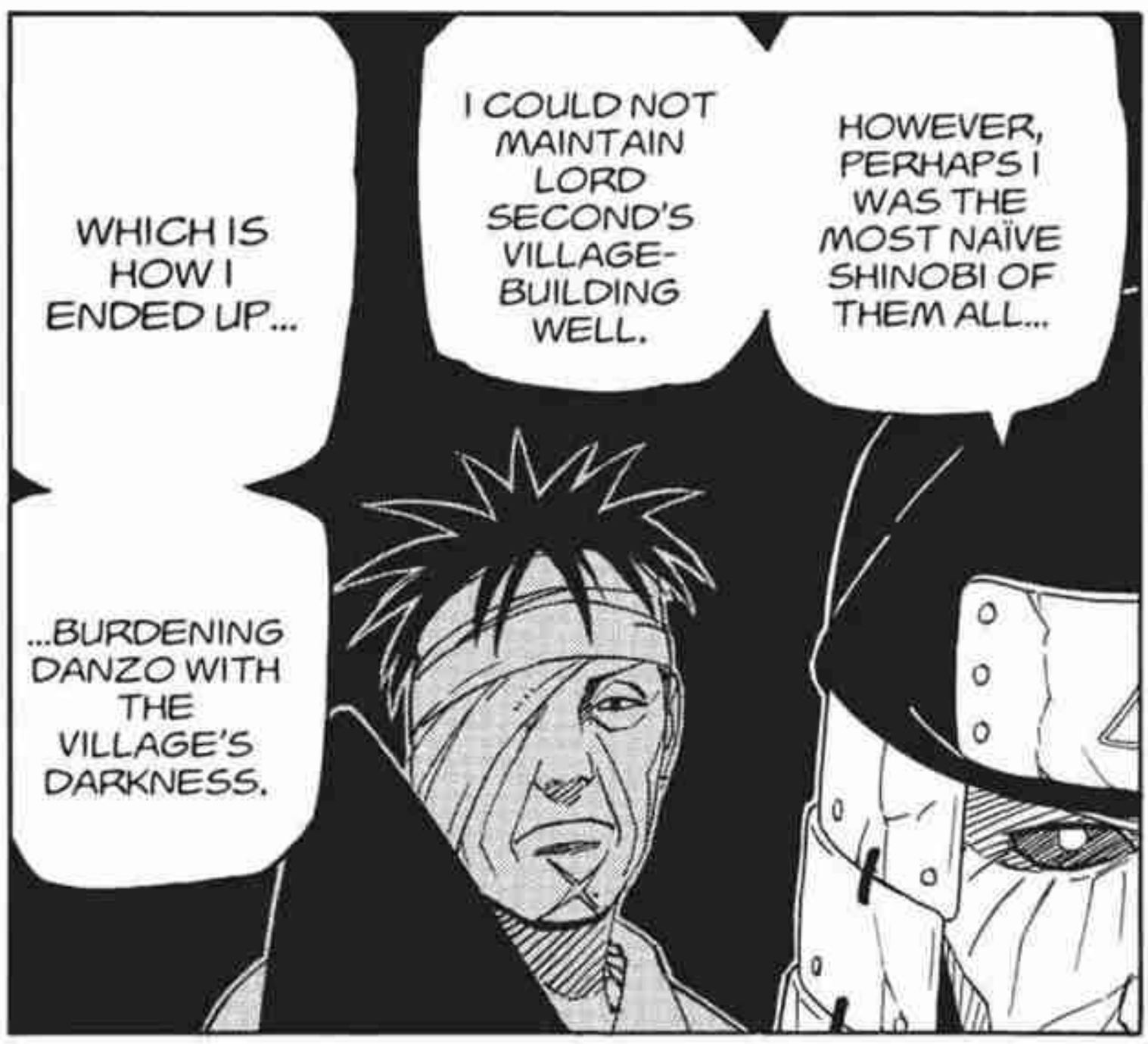
...

IT WAS MY ROLE AS SECOND HOKAGE TO MEDIATE BETWEEN THE TWO, PROTECT THE VILLAGE, AND FORTIFY IT.
ELDER BROTHER'S NAIVETÉ... AND UCHIHA MADARA'S DANGER-OUSNESS...

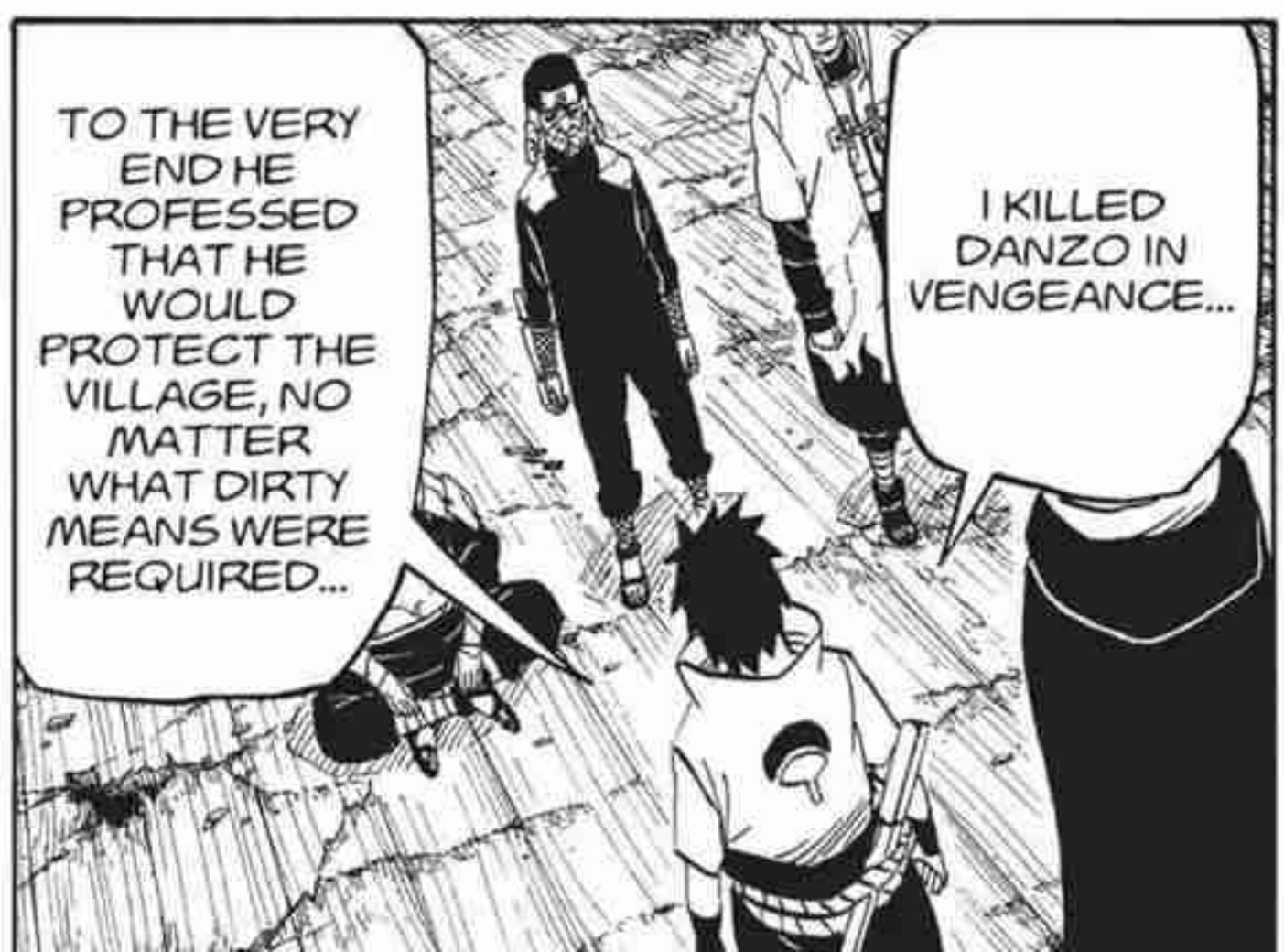
THERE WERE MANY...
...INCLUDING MYSELF, WHO INHERITED LORD FIRST'S WILL OF FIRE.

UCHIHA KAGAMI'S DESCENDANT WAS UCHIHA SHISUI...
THE MAN WHO WAS YOUR BROTHER ITACHI'S FRIEND.

...


WHICH IS HOW I ENDED UP...
...BURDENING DANZO WITH THE VILLAGE'S DARKNESS.
I COULD NOT MAINTAIN LORD SECOND'S VILLAGE-BUILDING WELL.
HOWEVER, PERHAPS I WAS THE MOST NAÏVE SHINOBI OF THEM ALL...

...

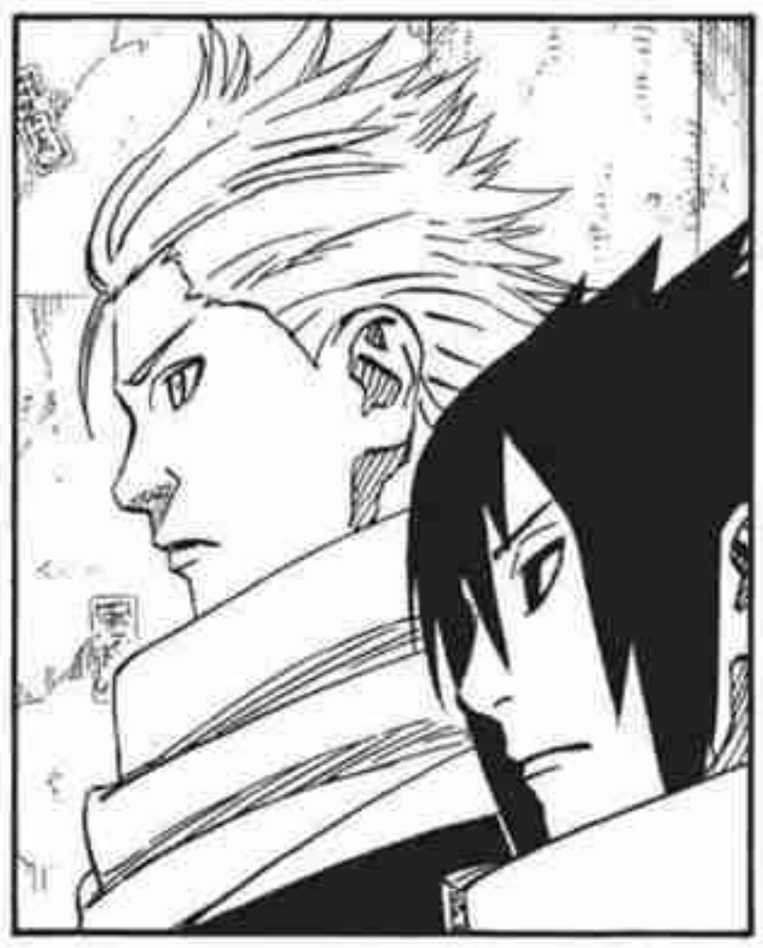

TO THE VERY END HE PROFESSED THAT HE WOULD PROTECT THE VILLAGE, NO MATTER WHAT DIRTY MEANS WERE REQUIRED...
I KILLED DANZO IN VENGEANCE...

NO... IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT, LORD THIRD...

YOU DEVOTED YOURSELF TO THE VILLAGE WHOLLY AND RESPECTABLY.

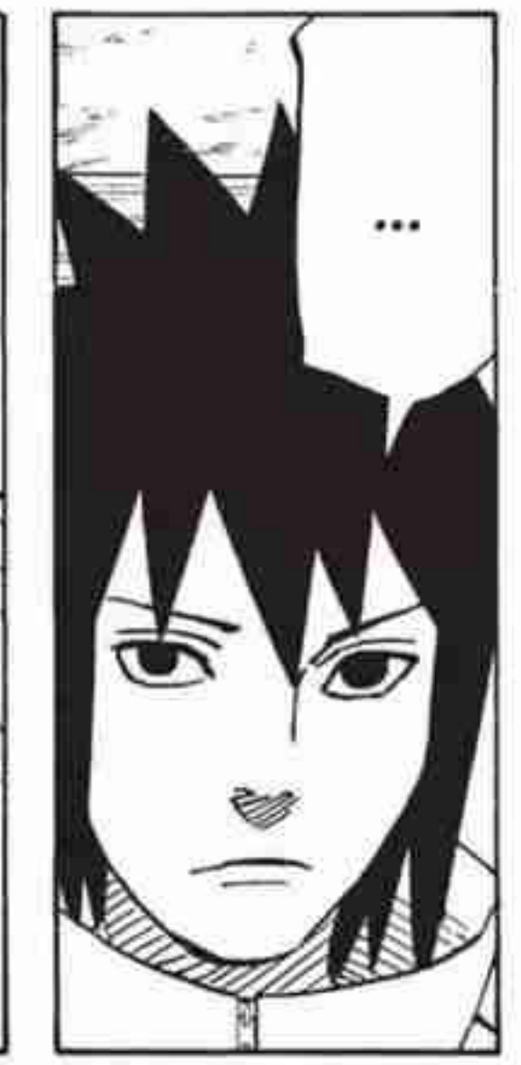
EVEN THE THINGS THAT LED TO THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE IN PART MY RESPONSIBILITY...

IT SEEMS LIKE I ERRED TIME AFTER TIME AS HOKAGE...



I'M THE ONE WHO WENT DOWN DURING THE NINE TAILS ATTACK.

NOW, SASUKE... WHAT NEXT?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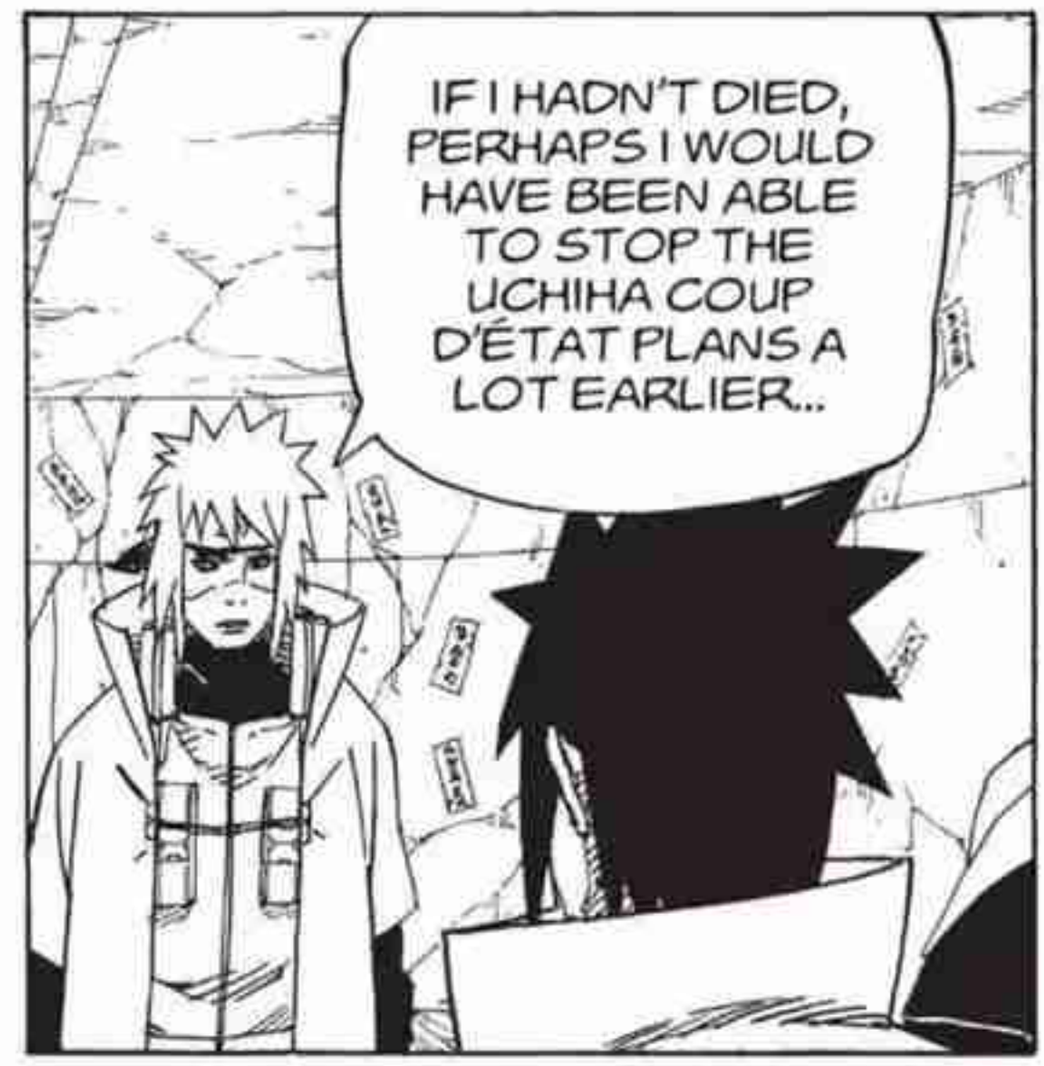
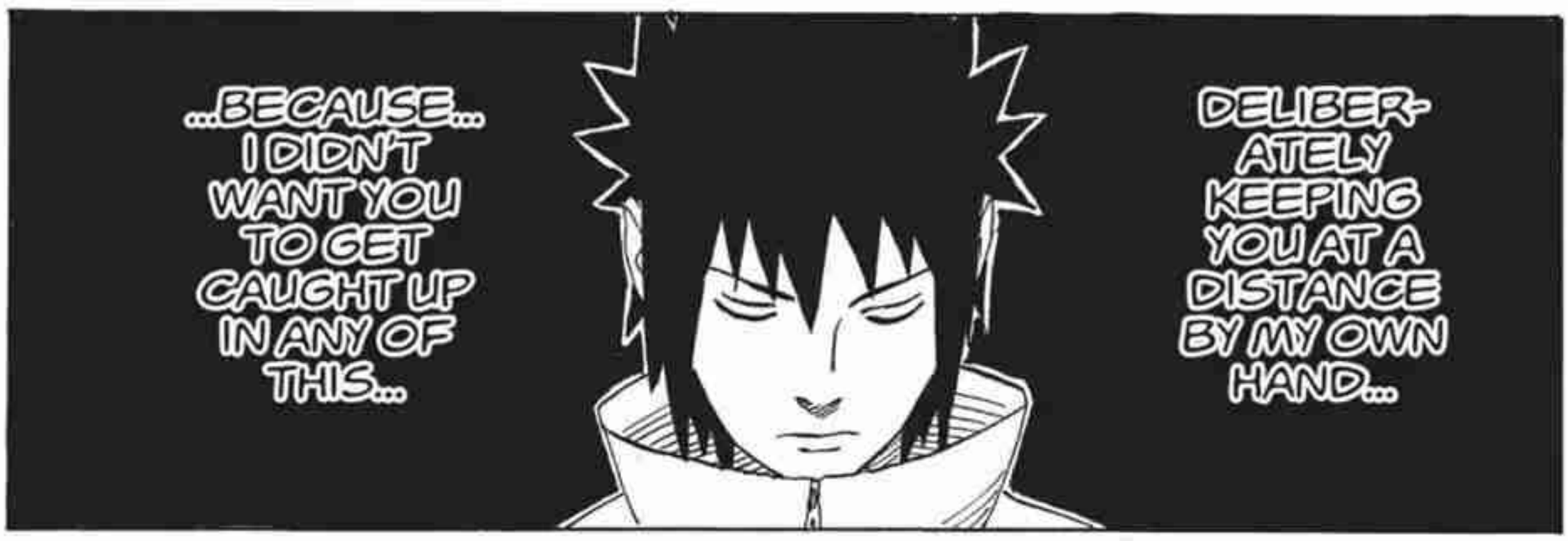

IF I HADN'T DIED, PERHAPS I WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STOP THE UCHIHA COUP D'ÉTAT PLANS A LOT EARLIER...

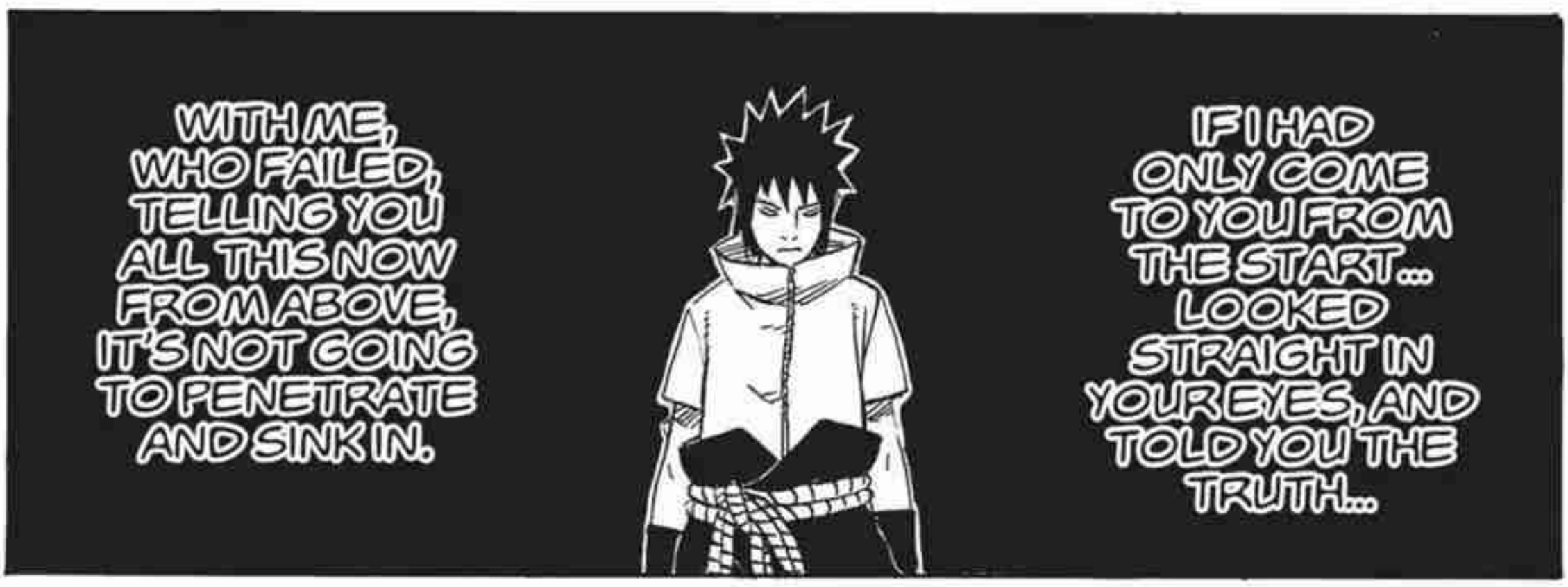
OR...?
SHALL YOU CRUSH THE VILLAGE...?

YOU ARE MY NEW LIGHT!
I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE LIKE A WALL YOU NEED TO CLIMB OVER.
BUT... IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US.
THAT'S ONE PATH FOR A SHINOBI.
FATHER ONLY CARES ABOUT YOU...
BIG BROTHER!
HEY! LET'S GO PLAY, BIG BROTHER!
THAT'S WHAT BIG BROTHERS ARE FOR.
EVEN IF IT MEANS BEING HATED...
HE'S... MY BROTHER.
MAN-GEKYO SHARIN-GAN!!
TOK
WHRRBLE
SORRY, SASUKE...
...MAYBE NEXT TIME.
WHAP
OW!
YOU HAVE TO KILL...
...YOUR CLOSEST FRIEND.'S
AND SOMEDAY, WHEN YOU HAVE THE SAME EYES AS I...
...THIS IS IT.
SORRY, SASUKE...
...MAYBE NEXT TIME.
SORRY, SASUKE...
WHAP
FOUND YOU!
CRRCK
CRRCK
SSH
...IS ME!
THE IZANAMI!!
I WILL LOVE YOU ALWAYS.
...RE-PRESSED BY THIS PATHETIC CLAN.
MY ABILITY'S BEEN...
OW!
SORRY, SASUKE...
ANOTHER TIME...
TOK
YOU'RE SO FAR AWAY...
BIG BROTHER...
...AS LONG AS WE CAN STILL TRAIN JUST US ONCE IN A WHILE.
THAT'S OKAY...
I DID DO EVERY-THING... DANZO AND TOBI HAVE TOLD
THAT NIGHT! I LEFT YOU...
JUST LIKE I DID.

...LIED TO YOU AND ASKED YOU TO FORGIVE ME...
I'VE ALWAYS...


...BECAUSE... I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO GET CAUGHT UP IN ANY OF THIS...
DELIBER-ATELY KEEPING YOU AT A DISTANCE BY MY OWN HAND...

...THAT PERHAPS YOU COULD HAVE CHANGED FATHER AND MOTHER... AND THE REST OF THE UCHIHA...
BUT NOW I THINK...


WITH ME, WHO FAILED, TELLING YOU ALL THIS NOW FROM ABOVE, IT'S NOT GOING TO PENETRATE AND SINK IN.
IF I HAD ONLY COME TO YOU FROM THE START... LOOKED STRAIGHT IN YOUR EYES, AND TOLD YOU THE TRUTH...

YOU DON'T EVER HAVE TO FORGIVE ME...

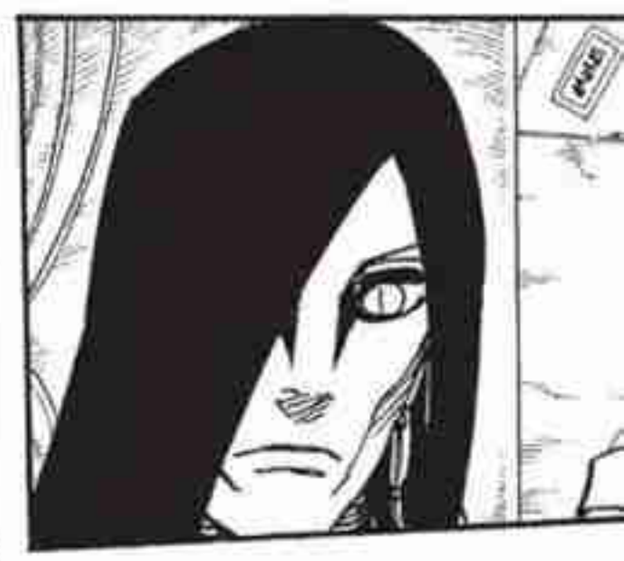
BUT I WANT TO IMPART AT LEAST THIS MUCH TRUTH TO YOU...

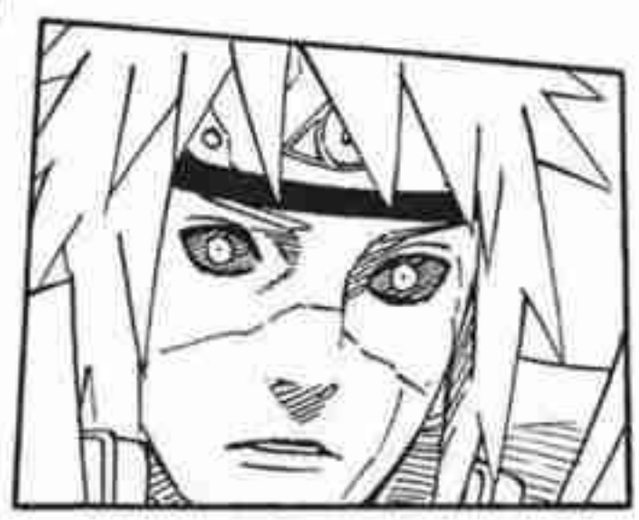
...AND NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO FROM HERE OUT, KNOW THIS...

I WILL LOVE YOU ALWAYS.

I WON'T LET THE VILLAGE AND ITACHI... BECOME NOTHING!

I'M GOING TO HEAD TO THE BATTLEFIELD.



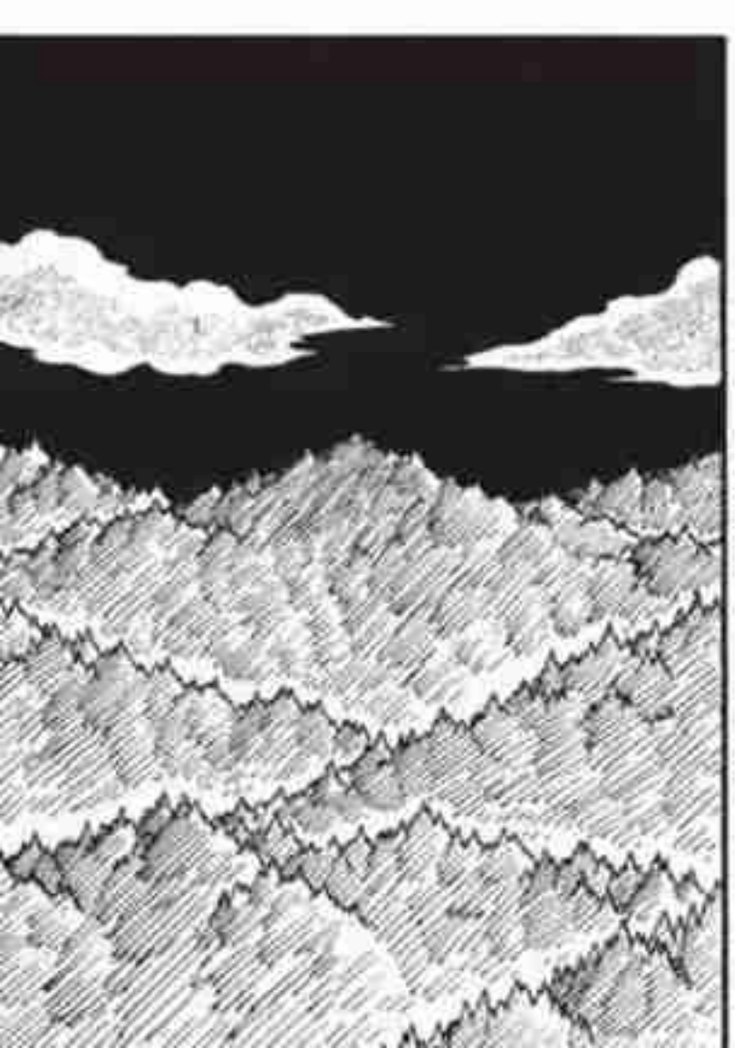


I'D LOVE TO, BUT I'M STILL RESTRICTED FROM USING THE FLYING RAIJIN...
WHAT IS YOUR PLAN? OROCHIMARU, WAS IT?

TOBIRAMA, MAKE PREPARATIONS TO FLY US OUTSIDE!!
...
SHUP

WHAT?!!
OF COURSE WE SHALL ACCOMPANY HIM.

I BELIEVE YOU SAID EARLIER YOU WOULD STICK WITH SASUKE?
...



IF I TAG ALONG, I'LL DIE FOR SURE... I'M MAKING A BREAK FOR IT WHEN I GET THE CHANCE...
FOUR MIGHTY ZOMBIES AND THREE MONSTERS ...

A-AND YOU, JUGO?
I'LL GO WITH THEM TOO... SINCE IT'S MY DUTY TO PROTECT SASUKE.

?!
THIS IS IT! HERE GOES!!

THIS VIEW SURE BRINGS BACK MEMORIES!!
HO!!

...KARIN...

OH... HOW SPLENDID. SO MANY OF MY SUPERIOR LAB RATS FROM THE PAST ASSEMBLED IN ONE PLACE.

I SENSED YOUR CHAKRA SO I BACKTRACKED HERE, HARDLY BELIEVIN' MYSELF, BUT VOILA!!

SPLACH

SO IT **WAS** YOU, SASUKE, EH!!!

SPLACH

SPLACH

...INNOCENT ...GAK!!

I'M... ARGH!!

BASTARD! YA THINK SUCH WORDS ARE ENUF TO MAKE ME FORGIVE YA, YA... GOOD-FER-NUTHIN'... ♡

I'M SORRY, KARIN...

BASTARD, I AIN'T EVER FORGIVIN'...

JUDGING FROM HER CHAKRA, SOMEONE OF THE UZUMAKI CLAN.

WHO'S THIS?

ME TOO, DEAR... BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M COOPERATING WITH SASUKE... AH, PERFECT. YOU CAN JOIN US TOO.

OH, UM! LORD OROCHI-MARU!!

YOU SEE, SASUKE HERE, HE STABBED ME...

FSH

SHUP

STILL GOT THAT WEAK SPOT FOR SASUKE, EH, KARIN?

WHOOM

I BET MADARA'LL BE SHOCKED TOO!

FOUR MIGHTY ZOMBIES, THREE MONSTERS, AND NOW AN IDIOT...

G-GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE.

SASUKE

SO RIGHT NOW, I'M MERELY CURIOUS ABOUT SASUKE'S DIFFERENT LIFE PATH...

I LEARNED WHILE INSIDE KABUTO...

...THAT EVEN HE WHO IMITATED MY LIFE PATH AND GATHERED EVERYTHING, FAILED.

!

OROCHIMARU... WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED TO COOPERATE WITH SASUKE?

FSH

YOU'VE BEEN TRYING SO HARD TO DESTROY THE VILLAGE...

SHUP

SINCE THAT BOY, UNLIKE KABUTO, DIDN'T TRY TO COPY ME...

SIGH...
SHUP
TUP
TUP

LET US BURN THE IMAGE OF OUR VILLAGE INTO OUR RETINAS...
MY FELLOW HOKAGE!
...FROM ATOP THESE MOUNTAINSIDE IMAGES THAT HAVE WATCHED OVER IT!!

NARUTO, I'LL MAKE UP FOR NOT HAVING DONE ANYTHING FOR YOU AS YOUR FATHER...
I'M FINALLY GETTING TO MEET MY SON.
...BY BRINGING YOU A HUGE PRESENT NOW!
FFT

FFT
FFT

IT'S FOOLISH, I KNOW... BUT I'M KIND OF LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING A FAMILIAR OLD FRIEND!
FFT

FFT
MADARA... WE'RE TAKING YOU DOWN FOR GOOD THIS TIME!

MUST FOCUS AND BRACE MYSELF FOR BATTLE!
NOW THEN! IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE SINCE MY LAST WAR...
FFT

TMP
TMP
LET'S GO !!!
TMP
ALWAYS CONFLICT, NO MATTER WHAT THE ERA... BUT THIS SHALL BE THE END OF WARS!!
TMP

SHUP